

Subject card

Subject name and code	History and Social Culture of the USA - lecture, PG_00144741						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Division of American Studies -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		prof. dr hab. Anna Mazurkiewicz				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		43.0	75
Subject objectives	This class examines American history and culture with a special focus on key developments in US social history, including historical processes and cultural phenomena that shaped it - from Colonial times to the present era. Such perspective,interdisciplinary and multidimensional,provides for a comparative approach toward diverse groups of Americans (Native Americans, Latinos, descendants of Europeans, Afro-Americans, Asians). Based on such approach, students will discover multifaceted interpretations of social constructs such as nation, citizenship, race as well as American exceptionalism.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_W02] Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has in-depth knowledge and understanding of selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge concerning the main directions of development of US society, historical processes, and cultural phenomena from pre-colonial times to the present day.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_K01] Is prepared to critically assess the scope of their knowledge and skills, especially in the field of American literary and cultural studies, contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	Student is ready to critically evaluate the scope of their knowledge and skills, especially in the field of US history and social culture.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_U04] Is able to use contextual knowledge in the field of American literary and cultural studies, including history, society, politics and art.	Can use contextual knowledge in the field of social and cultural history.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_W12] Knows and understands selected issues in American history, society, politics and art, constituting contextual knowledge necessary for research into literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Knows and understands selected issues in auxiliary and related sciences of American literature and cultural studies, including history necessary for researching literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	The course deals with issues related to the American experience (history and culture), with particular emphasis on the intertwining issues of race and class. The curriculum includes: 1) an outline of pre-Columbian civilizations; 2) time frames and directions of the influx of European emigration; 3) concepts that have shaped American culture from the colonial period to the present day; 4) demographic characteristics of the USA; 5) an outline of linguistic diversity; 6) media, social movements, elements of the political and judicial system, and others. A multi-directional and multicultural perspective will be proposed, contrasting with each other the experiences of various groups (Indian, Latinos, descendants of Europeans, African Americans and others) and the resulting differences in relation to such concepts as "nation" and "citizenship", American "Uniqueness", "pursuit of happiness", race, racism, immigration and other. Students also study assigned readings independently of discussions in class. The texts studied concern the problems of migration, racism, political representation, poverty related to origin, education, crime, religiosity, family life, shaping identity, affirmative action. During the course, students learn about the results of research in many disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology and culture		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Fluency in English, C1		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Exam	51.0%	70.0%
	Written review	51.0%	15.0%
	Active participation in lecture (discussion)	80.0%	15.0%

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Sample test question: When was Emmett Till murdered? a) The same year as Brown II (with all deliberate speed) b) Just a week before the March to Selma organized by Dr. Martin Luther King c) The same day as the Little Rock (Arkansas) tried to enter the school building d) Right after Malcolm X was shot dead Sample exam questions: a. What kind of disadvantages stem from neighborhood segregation? b. Describe convict leasing and how we got from that to mass incarceration. c. How are the legacies of segregated education still appearing in modern education systems? d. On a basis of a selected example, explain the impact of stereotypes on the ethnic/immigrant communities. e. Why religious life continues to be one of the most racialized areas of American society?
Work placement	Not applicable

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