

Subject card

Subject name and code	The History of American Cinema, PG_00145192						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor'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	2		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	4		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		dr Paweł Biliński				
	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	Acquainting students with the history of American cinema (from the beginning to the 1960s).						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERL3_W05] Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus of cultural and religious studies applicable to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	He has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus of American cinema history applicable to the in the study of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_U03] is able to use acquired subject knowledge to identify, analyze, interpret and explain cultural phenomena and processes in North America, using concepts and methods from cultural and religious studies.	Is able to use acquired knowledge of the history of American cinema to identify, analyze, interpret and explain cultural phenomena and processes in North America, using concepts and methods from cultural and religious studies.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_K01] is ready to critically evaluate his knowledge and skills, especially in American cultural and literary studies, as well as the basic contextual knowledge of American studies concerning history, social sciences, geography, linguistics and art and English.	Is ready to critically assess the extent of his knowledge of American film history and recognizes the importance of this knowledge in solving cognitive and practical problems.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_W11] Knows and understands the basic interrelationships of American cultural and literary studies with other humanity studies and social sciences, including, in particular, knowledge of selected issues and basic terminology in American history, society, language, politics and art, constituting the basic contextual knowledge necessary for the study of North American cultural phenomena and processes.	Knows and understands the basic connections of American cultural studies with other humanities and social sciences, including, in particular, knowledge of selected issues and basic terminology in the history of American cinema, constituting the basic contextual knowledge necessary for the study of North American cultural phenomena and processes.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_W01] Knows and understands to an advanced degree selected issues that constitute basic general knowledge of cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has advanced general knowledge of the importance of American cinema history and its specifics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_W07] Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues concerning cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has detailed knowledge of selected issues concerning the history of American cinema up to 1960.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_U06] Able to communicate orally and in writing on issues related to American and British culture and literature, using specialized terminology in cultural and religious studies and literary studies.	Is able to communicate orally and in writing on issues related to the history of American cinema, using specialized terminology from cultural and religious studies and literary studies.	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	The history of American cinema - from the beginning to the end of classical era, in particular: the significance of Thomas A. Edison's work; the rise of American film industry; David W. Griffith; American slapstick cinema: M. Sennett, Ch. Chaplin, B. Keaton, H. Lloyd and others; the transition to the sound era and its impact; first documentary films (R. Flaherty); star system; classical cinema; genre films: musical, gangster film, horror, western, screwball comedy; sophisticated comedy; film noir; American film during the time of II World War; 1950s golden age of classical cinema; Auteur directors: A. Hitchcock, O. Welles, H. Hawks, B. Wilder, J. Ford and other; "Actors Studio"		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	English language skills at the B2 level		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	written work	51.0%	20.0%
	Exam	51.0%	80.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Joel W. Finler, The Hollywood Story, London: Wallflower 2003. Douglas Gomery, The Hollywood Studio System: A History, London: British Film Institute 2005. David Bordwell, Janet Steiger, Kristin Thompson, The Classical Hollywood Cinema. Film Style and Mode of Production to 1960, London: Routledge 1985. Mistrzowie kina amerykańskiego. Klasycy, pod red. Ł. Plesnara i R. Syski, Kraków: Rabid 2006. Historia kina. Tom I. Kino nieme, red. naukowa T. Lubelski, I. Sowińska, R. Syska, Kraków : Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas" 2009. Historia kina. Tom II. Kino klasyczne, red. naukowa T. Lubelski, I. Sowińska, R. Syska, Kraków : Towarzystwo Autorów i Wydawców Prac Naukowych "Universitas" 2011.
	Supplementary literature	Other materials on the history of American cinema (articles from academic journals), films
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Influence and importance of Citizen Kane; Characteristics of screwball comedies - using a selected example; The origins of cinema in the United States; Characteristics of the studio system during the classic era of American cinema	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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