

Subject card

Subject name and code	US History - lecture II, PG_00144792						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group 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	2		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 Piotr Derengowski				
	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	The purpose of the course is to familiarize the students with historical context essential for further instruction within the American studies. Successful completion of the course provides the students with basic knowledge of the history of Western Hemisphere, as well as systematic knowledge of the History of the USA. This class also gives the students the opportunity to get to know both terminology and the basics skills for conducting historical research.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[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.	Student is ready to critically evaluate the extent of his knowledge of North American history. (K_K01)	[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.	Student knows selected issues and basic terminology in American History, constituting the basic contextual knowledge necessary for the study of North American cultural phenomena and processes. (K_W11)	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERL3_U09] Is able to use and communicate knowledge of history, social sciences, geography, linguistics and the arts, providing a basic context in the study of North American cultural phenomena and processes.	Student is able to use and communicate knowledge of history, which is the basic context in the study of North American cultural phenomena and processes. (K_U09)	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	Semester 2: The Reconstruction. Rise of a global empire. Growth and expansion of the USA in 19th and 20th century. Rebirth of freedom: ideological, political, legal, economic and social consequences of the Civil War; post-war reconstruction shaping of nationalistic country; oil and steel: barons of American industry J.D. Rockefeller, A. Carnegie, J.P. Morgan; from emancipation to Jim Crow law introduction of a segregation system in the USA. Overview of major immigration waves to the USA in 19th and 20th century; legal conditions; pushing out/pulling up factors, migration typology, social outcomes. Yellow press and Muckrakers American media system at the turn of the century: I.M. Tarbell, W.R. Hearst, J. Pulitzer. Ecological disasters and concerns about protection of environment in the first half of 20th century. Rationale for the birth of an empire: forms and areas of expansion, progressivism and expansion, moral imperialism vs. liberal internationalism. Spanish-American War, American-Cuban relations. American anticommunism, socialists and waves of red scare (Eugene Debs), American alliances and engagement on the fronts of WWI and WWII. From Uncle Joe to the Evil Empire birth and evolution of American doctrine of containment. Asian conflicts and dilemmas: Philippines, China, Korea, Vietnam. Struggle for equal rights for colored people in the USA and decolonization processes around the world. American internal crises in the 60s and 70s; mobilization of the minorities; 1968. Crises of political leadership American Presidents from R.M. Nixon to R. Reagan. Americans on transformations in Central-European states. Superpower perspectives and threats		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	English B1		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Attendance	70.0%	10.0%
	Exam	51.0%	90.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Textbook: semester 2: E. Foner, Give Me Liberty! An American History, Vol. II (2nd or 3rd Edition)	
	Supplementary literature	Collection of sources: Voices of Freedom. A Documentary History, ed. by E. Foner, Vol. 2 (3rd Edition)	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What were the origins and the significance of Populism? Name three big Constitutional Amendments of the Post-Civil War Era and describe what did they change in the USA Describe the expansion and limitations of democracy in the Progressive Era		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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