

Subject card

Subject name and code	Recent Trends in American Literature, PG_00144770						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		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	2		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		4.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
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 hab. Marta Koval				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	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		68.0	100
Subject objectives	To give students an overview of the history of American literature after 1985. To familiarize students with recent trends in US literature and the transformation of literary conventions in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_W07] Student knows and comprehensively understands selected topics representing advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues in American literature.	Knows and understands in-depth selected issues constituting advanced knowledge of American literature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_K04] Student is ready to follow contemporary literary trends in North America.	A student is prepared to follow contemporary literary trends in North America.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_W05] Student knows and comprehensively understands advanced terminology in literary studies applicable to the study of American literature.	A student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of advanced literary studies terminology applicable to the study of late 20th - early 21st century American literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K09] Student is ready to observe, develop and disseminate the principles of ethics in the performance of tasks related to the program of study, in research work in the field of American literature and cultural studies, and in professional work.	Is ready to observe, develop and disseminate the principles of ethics in the performance of tasks related to the program of study, in research work in the field of American literary studies of the late 20th and early 21st centuries and in his professional work.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_U01] Student is able to use methods and tools appropriate to literary studies and cultural and religious studies to innovatively perform analytical and interpretive tasks concerning phenomena and processes in American literature and culture.	Is able to use methods and tools specific to literary studies to innovatively perform interpretive tasks on the phenomena and processes of late 20th-early 21st century American literature.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_K06] Student is ready to actively participate in literary, cultural and artistic life.	A student is prepared for an active participation t in literary life.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_W17] Student knows and understands fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization in the context of issues related to the development of North American literature, culture, art and society.	A student knows and understands the fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization in the context related to the development of literature in the USA at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_K01] Student is ready to critically assess the extent of her/his knowledge and skills, especially in the fields of American literature and cultural studies, contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	A student is prepared to critically evaluate his/her knowledge and skills in American literary studies at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_U06] Student is able to conduct a debate on American literature, culture and society, present and evaluate different opinions and positions and discuss them.	Is able to debate American literature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, present and evaluate different opinions and positions and discuss them.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_U05] Student is able to communicate with diverse audiences on specialized topics concerning literary and cultural phenomena and processes in North America, using advanced terminology in literary and cultural and religious studies.	A student can communicate with diverse audiences on specialized themes related to literary phenomena and processes in North America at the turn of the 20th century, using advanced literary studies terminology.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERMU2_K05] Student is ready to inspire and organize activities for the dissemination of knowledge of American literature and culture and to popularize attitudes of tolerance and openness towards other cultures.	A student is ready to initiate and organize activities to popularize knowledge of American literature and culture and promote tolerance and openness towards other cultures.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report

Subject contents	• Revival of the Realist tradition, neorealism, family sagas (Carver, Beatie, Baker, Robinson, Eugenides); • History revisited: historical novel vs novel about history (Powers, Baker, Doctorow); • Literature of 9/11 (DeLillo, Updike, Foer); • Post-apocalyptic fiction (McCarthy); • African American writing (Morrison, Naylor, Walker, Whitehead, Everett, et al.); • Native American writing (Silko, Erdrich, Alexie, Owen, et al.); • Chicano/Chicana writing (Anaya, Chavez, Castillo, Cisneros, et al.); • Asian American literature and dilemmas of identity (Tan, Mukherjee, Nguyen, et al.); • American writers of European descent and challenges of memory; exile fiction (Melnyczuk, Hemon, Radulescu, et al.); • Jewish American literature; dilemmas of identity and memory of the Holocaust (Bellow, Roth, Ozick); • Feminist literature, LGBT literature • Environmentalism in literature • Graphic novels • Popular literature		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Credit for the course "Modernism and Postmodernism in American Literature". Knowledge of the English language at the C2 level.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	presentation prepared in a pair or small group	51.0%	40.0%
	active participation in classes	51.0%	20.0%
	written examination/ test on reading assignments	51.0%	40.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature Bercovitch, Sacvan, editor. <i>The Cambridge History of American Literature</i>. Vol. 5. Cambridge UP, 2003. Halliwell, Martin., and Catherine Morley. <i>American Thought and Culture in the 21st Century</i>. Edinburgh UP, 2008. Irr, Caren. <i>Toward the Geopolitical Novel. U.S. Fiction in the Twenty-First Century</i>. Columbia UP, 2013. O'Donnell, Patrick. <i>The American Novel Now</i>. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Wagner-Martin, Linda. <i>A History of American Literature</i>. Wiley Blackwell, 2013. and other texts as specified by Lecturer		

	Supplementary literature	Anthologies of American literature, e.g.: (poems, short stories, essays) Lauter, Paul, editor. <i>The Heath Anthology of American Literature</i>. Volume E. Wadsworth, 2006 Powers, Richard. <i>The Overstory</i> McCarthy, Cormac. <i>Blood Meridian</i> Hemon, Aleksandar. <i>The Book of My Lives</i> (selected essays) Esciffery, Jonathan. <i>If I Survive You</i> (selected stories) Mukherjee, Bharati. Selected stories Robinson, Marilynne. <i>Home</i> Other novels and stories selected by the teaching Bewes, Timothy. <i>Free Indirect. The Novel in a Postfictopnal Age</i>. Cambridge UP, 2022. Greil, Marcus, and Werner Sollors, editors. <i>A New Literary History of America</i>. The Belknap Press of Harvard UP, 2008. Bigsby, C. W. E. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture</i>. Cambridge UP, 2006. Koval, Marta. Indigestible America and the Crisis of Multiculturalism in Aleksandar Hemon's Fiction." <i>Eating America: Crisis, Sustenance, Sustainability</i>, edited by Marek Wilczyński & Andrzej Ceynowa, Peter Lang, 2015. pp. 155-162. Koval, Marta. <i>We Search the Past for Our Own Lost Selves. Representations of Historical Experience in Recent American Fiction</i>. Peter Lang, 2013. Koval, Marta. "The Image of Home Lost and Rediscovered." <i>Austria and America: 20th-Century Cross-Cultural Encounters</i>, edited by Joshua Parker, Ralph J. Poole, LIT Verlag, 2017, pp. 163-174. Koval, Marta. <i>Frameworks of Memory in Recent American Fiction. Narratives of East-Central European Immigrant Experience</i>. Peter Lang, 2022
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Evolution of Realist tradition: new issues and socio-political awareness Minority literature: aesthetic values versus social mission Transformation of the historical novel	
Work placement	Not applicable	