

Subject card

Subject name and code	Recent Trends in American Literature, PG_00144771						
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		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 hab. Marta Koval				
	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		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_W14] Student has a structured knowledge of literary life in North America and is familiar with main institutions and major literary events.	A student knows American literary life at the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries on the advanced level and is familiar with the most important literary events that took place after 1985.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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_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_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.	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_W13] Student knows and comprehensively understands development trends of American literature and its historical evolution.	A student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of American literary developments after 1985 and the historical evolution of American literature at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK4] 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 in literary life.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[AMERMU2_W11] Student knows and comprehensively understands advanced methods of analysis and interpretation specific to American literature.	A student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of advanced methods of analysis and interpretation of late 20th - early 21st-century American literature.	[SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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
	[AMERMU2_W01] Student knows and comprehensively understands selected issues that constitute advanced general knowledge of American literature.	A student has a thorough advanced knowledge and understanding of selected topics of late 20th and early 21st century American literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work

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	No formal requirements		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	two tests	51.0%	20.0%
	written assignment (reader's response)	51.0%	20.0%
	written or oral examination	51.0%	60.0%
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.	

	Supplementary literature	Antologie literatury amerykańskiej, np.: (wiersze, opowiadania, eseje) 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	