

Subject card

Subject name and code	The 1990s. A Decade of American Cinema Masterpieces, PG_00204210						
Field of study	Film and Audio-Visual Culture Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	practical		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Film and Media -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Bartosz Filip				
	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		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the most significant trends, filmmakers, and works of American cinema of the 1990s, and to develop their ability to critically analyze film within historical, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. The course aims to highlight the diversity of cinema from that decade—ranging from Hollywood productions to independent films—and to discuss their influence on contemporary cinematic language and popular culture. Students will learn about the most important trends, narrative strategies, and formal techniques characteristic of this period, and will also develop their skills in analyzing films.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[WOFKAL3_W03] He/she has a well-organized knowledge of the history and principles of functioning of new media and the history of cinema.		He/she has a well-organized understanding of the history and principles of new media, as well as the history of cinema in the context of the history (including the most recent history) of American cinema.		[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report		
	[WOFKAL3_K09] He/she is aware of the responsibility for preserving the cultural heritage (especially film heritage) of the region, country and Europe.		He/she is aware that preserving the cultural heritage (especially cinematic heritage) of the United States is essential to the study of film history.		[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report		
	[WOFKAL3_U06] He/she can search, analyze, critically evaluate and select information using spoken and written sources.		Can search for, analyze, critically evaluate, and select information from spoken and written sources related to popular American cinema from the 1990s.		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report		
	[WOFKAL3_U01] He/she can search, analyze, evaluate, select and use information using modern technologies and in accordance with the guidance of the supervisor/lecturer.		The student is able to search for, analyze, evaluate, select, and use information about American cinema of the 1990s, utilizing modern technologies and the instructor's guidance.		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report		

Subject contents	• The Characteristics of American Cinema in the 1990s – Changes in the Film Industry Following the 1980s. • Hollywood vs. Independent Cinema – New Models of Production, Distribution, and Promotion. • The work of selected directors (including Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino, David Fincher, Joel and Ethan Coen, Steven Spielberg, and Paul Thomas Anderson). • Film genres of the 1990s. • An aesthetic and narrative breakthrough in American cinema at the end of the 20th century. • Cult cinema and the phenomenon of films that have achieved the status of modern pop culture classics. • Film as Social Commentary – Identity, Violence, Consumerism, Media, and Social Change. • An analysis of selected works in terms of narrative, visual style, editing, music, and acting performances. • The influence of 1990s cinema on contemporary filmmakers and audiovisual culture.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Active participation and engagement in class discussions	51.0%	40.0%
	Group presentation (analysis of a selected film, filmmaker, or phenomenon)	51.0%	60.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	• David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, <i>Film History: An Introduction, Kino końca wieku, Historia kina, tom 4</i>, red. Rafał Syska, Iwona Sowińska, Tadeusz Lubelski • Rafał Syska, Łukasz Plesnar, <i>Mistrzowie kina amerykańskiego, współczesność</i>	
	Supplementary literature	• Sharon Waxman, <i>Rebels on the Backlot: Six Maverick Directors and How They Conquered the Hollywood Studio System</i> • Geoff King, <i>American Independent Cinema</i> • Steve Neal, Murray Smith, <i>Contemporary Hollywood Cinema</i>	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Were the 1990s the last great decade of auteur Hollywood? 2. Quentin Tarantino and the birth of a new cinematic pop culture. 3. David Fincher—the aesthetics of darkness and the crisis of contemporary identity. 4. The Coen Brothers—irony, genre, and the American myth. 5. Martin Scorsese in the 1990s—between gangster films and psychological drama. 6. Independent cinema and the Sundance Film Festival phenomenon. 7. The narrative revolution—nonlinear storytelling and new narrative strategies. 8. The decade's most important films as the contemporary cinematic canon.		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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