University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Timescapes of Texas: the urban and cultural scapes of Austin, PG_00205034		
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 Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Arkadiusz Misztal, prof. UG	
	Teachers	dr hab. Arkadiusz Misztal, prof. UG	

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	18.0	50

Subject objectives	To familiarize students with urban planning and technological processes in Texas, using the city of Austin as a case study from the 1980s to the present.

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.	Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological framework in the fields of cultural and religious studies as it applies to the study of cultural phenomena and processes in Texas.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[AMERL3_W07] Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues concerning cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has in-depth, specialized knowledge of cultural and urbanization phenomena and processes in Texas.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[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 prepared to critically assess his own knowledge and skills, particularly in the field of American cultural studies and the basic contextual knowledge required for American studies.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] 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.	Can apply the subject-area knowledge they have acquired to identify, analyze, interpret, and explain cultural phenomena in American cities, using concepts and methods from the fields of cultural studies and religious studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[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 topics related to American culture, using specialized terminology from the fields of cultural studies and religious studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

The elective traces the trajectories of Austin’s growth in the period between 1980 and 2025 by examining how has the presence of Big Tech has changed the urban and cultural scapes of Austin and its places and what kind of future-gazing has been the driver of urban change. Some of the topics:

the impact of rapid urbanization,

surges in population,

challenges of gentrification,

the emergent temporal character of the new Austin as projected against the backdrop of Texas and the American urban identity.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
class discussion	51.0%	20.0%
presentation	51.0%	35.0%
test	51.0%	45.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Lewis, Randolph. The End of Austin Website and video essays.

Long, Joshua. Weird City: Sense of Place and Creative Resistance in Austin, Texas. University of Texas Press, 2010.

Tretter, Eliot M. Shadows of a Sunbelt City: The Environment, Racism, and the Knowledge Economy in Austin. University of Georgia Press, 2016.

	Supplementary literature	Busch, Andrew M. “Crossing Over: Sustainability, New Urbanism, and Gentrification in Austin, Texas.” Southern Spaces, 19 Aug. 2015, https://southernspaces.org/2015/crossing-over-sustainability-new-urbanism-and-gentrification-austin-texas/
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	How has the presence of Big Tech changed Austin in 1980s ?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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