University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	American Gothic Now: Domestic Spaces, Violence, and the Uncanny, PG_00205052		
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 Barbara Miceli	
	Teachers	dr Barbara Miceli	

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	The aim of the course is to introduce students to the major themes, conventions, and transformations of contemporary American Gothic and to develop their ability to critically analyse its literary and cultural representations in relation to identity, trauma, gender, and contemporary social anxieties.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[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.	Is able to apply the subject-specific knowledge acquired to identify, analyze, interpret, and explain cultural phenomena and processes related to Gothic culture in North America, using concepts and methods from the fields of cultural studies and religious studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[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 and literature with Gothic elements, using specialized terminology from the fields of cultural studies, religious studies, and literary studies	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[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 related to Gothic culture in North America.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[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 knowledge and skills, particularly in the fields of American cultural studies and literary studies, as well as the basic contextual knowledge of American studies pertaining to Gothic literature.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[AMERL3_W07] Has advanced detailed knowledge of selected issues concerning cultural phenomena and processes in North America.	Has advanced, in-depth knowledge of selected topics related to cultural phenomena and processes associated with Gothic culture in North America.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion

Subject contents

American Gothic Now explores contemporary transformations of the American Gothic in literature, film, and popular culture. Particular attention is paid to trauma, violence, gender, identity, and social and cultural anxieties. Through the analysis of selected literary and audiovisual works, students will examine how contemporary Gothic narratives reinterpret traditional genre conventions to address the complexities and contradictions of American society.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

none

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
active participation in classes	51.0%	50.0%
test	51.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Botting, Fred. *Gothic.* 2nd ed., Routledge, 2014.

Punter, David, and Glennis Byron. *The Gothic.* Blackwell, 2004.

Goddu, Teresa A. *Gothic America: Narrative, History, and Nation*. Columbia University Press, 1997.

	Supplementary literature	Hogle, Jerrold E., editor. *The Cambridge Companion to Gothic Fiction.* Cambridge University Press, 2002. Edwards, Justin D., and Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet, editors. *The Gothic in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture: Pop Goth*. Routledge, 2012. Weinstock, Jeffrey Andrew, editor. *The Cambridge Companion to American Gothic*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. Oates, Joyce Carol. *The Doll-Master and Other Tales of Terror.* Mysterious Press, 2016. Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. Scribner, 2017.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. What are the defining characteristics of the American Gothic, and how have they evolved in contemporary literature and popular culture? 2. How do contemporary Gothic narratives represent trauma, memory, and the haunting presence of the past? 3. In what ways does the American Gothic explore gender roles, sexuality, and violence? 4. How are family relationships, domestic spaces, and psychological disturbances represented in contemporary Gothic fiction? 5. What role do race, class, and social inequality play in shaping contemporary American Gothic narratives? 6. How do contemporary Gothic works reinterpret traditional motifs such as the haunted house, the monster, the uncanny, and the supernatural? 7. How does the Gothic engage with contemporary American fears, cultural anxieties, and identity crises? 8. Analyse a selected literary text, film, or television episode, identifying its Gothic conventions and explaining their cultural significance. 9. Compare the representation of trauma, violence, or the uncanny in two contemporary American Gothic works. 10. Discuss how a contemporary Gothic narrative challenges conventional distinctions between normality and monstrosity, victimhood and guilt, or reality and the supernatural.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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