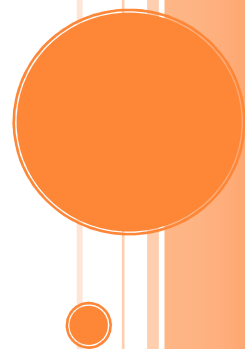


**COURSE CATALOGUE**  
**MA & ADVANCED MA**  
*SPRING 2017*

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



# Course Catalogue – MA & Advanced MA

*SPRING 2017*

## **LECTURES – Advanced MA**

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Course ID: ***4219-AW102-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American History II***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska***

The course offers discussion on selected pertinent issues in the post-Civil War era in the United States. The course will be chronologically arranged and will cover the period from the 1870s up to the 1980s. The topics of racial relations, armed conflicts, childhood, consumer culture, social movements, changes in the role of women will be addressed.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW104-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American Literature II***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

This course – partly lecture, partly discussion – explores several contested categories of modern literary and cultural theory: authorial intention; narrative and narrativity; canonicity and artistic value; ideology and selfhood; postmodernism; gender and sexuality; race. Each theme is relevant not only to the study of literature but broadly conceived culture. Present in scholarly debates of the last century, the categories explored in this class have been handled differently by various schools of literary and cultural theory. Readings include key theoretical texts as well as works of American literature that deal with a given issue.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW105-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in US Foreign Policy***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

This course will focus on Strategic Studies, regional security issues in the rising face of "hybrid" warfare mixing conventional, irregular and cyber strategies as the Russian Federation tries to reincarnate the "Soviet Union" and China creates new development banks designed transparently to undermine the United States as it attempts to dominate the seas along Asia's coast line. We will consider selected regions of the world beginning with Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) that have entered turbulence involving Ukraine because this region is most important to Poland and to the European Union (EU) generally. We will look at East Asia also, on account of its importance to trade with both the EU and United States. This course must address the role the United States is expected to play in maintaining regional security through its own assets, those of its Allies, and those of sponsored international organisations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) primarily.

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## LECTURES – MA

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Course ID: ***4219-AW102***  
Course title: ***American History II***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska***

This lecture provides a general survey of American History from Reconstruction through the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will become acquainted with the main developments in American politics, society, and culture.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW104***  
Course title: ***American Literature II***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This lecture series discusses the developments in American literature - fiction, poetry, drama, essay - from the end of the Civil War until the present. It looks at major authors, changing literary styles, themes and assumptions concerning the role of literature. Major literary texts (novels, short stories, plays, poems) are examined in some detail, as are key works in the history of aesthetics (manifestos, essays on the nature of literature, etc.). Attention is paid to the philosophical assumptions behind various literary paradigms (e.g. the relationship between naturalism and social determinism; modernism and pragmatism, postmodernism and post-structuralist thought).

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Course ID: ***4219-AW105***  
Course title: ***US Foreign Policy***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

This lecture will survey U.S. Foreign Policy since 1789, offering the graduate student the isolationist or interventionist preferences of U.S. Presidents over 220 years. From the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 through two world wars, many conflicts and 21st Century terror challenges American foreign policy is shaped in part by the country's domestic political scene, which is changing constantly. Part of this lecture will address the shortcomings of the Allied and American effort to rebuild a democratic Russian Federation upon fall of the Soviet Union, and the consequence that is having in 2014 and beyond with an effort by some Russian leaders to reconstruct a Soviet Union for the 21st century. With so many parts of the world depending upon the United States of America for their continued freedom in the face of open predators, America can ill afford to make repeated mistakes that tempt adversaries to exert challenges never dreamed of during the strong presidencies of both Roosevelts and Reagan.

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## **ELECTIVE COURSES – Advanced MA**

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### **Cluster 1**

- 4219-SB125-A Key Texts on the American Constitutional Tradition*  
*4219-SB126-A From Calvinism to Transcendentalism: Genealogies of American Romantic Thought*  
*4219-SB139-A Post-secularism and Religions in time of Globalization*  
*4219-SC156-A Photography in American Literature*

### **Cluster 2**

- 4219-SB139-A Post-secularism and Religions in time of Globalization*  
*4219-SC156-A Photography in American Literature*  
*4219-SH168-A Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities. Ethnographic and Sociological Studies*

### **Cluster 3**

- 4219-SF144-A Political Behavior in the US*  
*4219-SB125-A Key Texts on the American Constitutional Tradition*

Course ID: ***4219-SB125-A***  
Course title: ***Key Texts on the American Constitutional Tradition***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates Jr***

This course will have a close examination of three key texts of the of the American Constitutional tradition—Montesquieu’s The Spirit of the Laws, The Federalist Paper and Tocqueville’s Democracy in America. It can be argued that these texts have helped shaped the understanding of the American Constitution for over nearly two centuries.

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Course ID: ***4219-SB126-A***  
Course title: ***From Calvinism to Transcendentalism: Genealogies of American Romantic Thought***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The course focuses on the continuity of American intellectual debates concerning individual liberties and the relevance of tradition from the beginning of Puritan settlements in New England through the crisis of the New England Standing Order and the rise of Unitarianism and Transcendentalism in the early 19th century in Boston and Cambridge.

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Course ID: ***4219-SB139-A***  
Course title: ***Post-secularism and Religions in time of Globalization***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

One of the defining features of our time is the intense public debate around secularism, religious beliefs and the public sphere. The extent and depth of this debate cannot be over-estimated and it affects primarily our own self-identity. For example: the definition of modern culture as the site of humanism, and of the Enlightenment-based separation of church and state in the USA Constitution as an expression of American identity, and the wish to add invocation of God to European Constitution.

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Course ID: ***4219-SC156-A***  
Course title: ***Photography in American Literature***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

The course focuses on how photography influenced the developments in American literature.

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Course ID: ***4219-SF144-A***  
Course title: ***Political Behavior in the US***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Adam Biliński***

The course analyzes political behavior in the United States, in particular, the voter choice and social factors influencing it. It also analyzes the relationship between public opinion and political behavior (including such topics as ideology, party identification, religiosity and racial/ethnic identities).

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Course ID: ***4219-SH168-A***  
Course title: ***Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities. Ethnographic and Sociological Studies***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska***

The course gives an overview of the contemporary American society in three distinct social spaces of cities, suburbia and rural areas. Each class discusses one or two community studies. An instructor provides an introduction to the academic tradition, author, geographic area and historical context of a place and a community that a given study deals with. A student presents an overview of the objectives, methodology, evidence and conclusions of the study. The class discussion focuses on critical analysis of the study conclusions, policy recommendations, consequences for the studied community and academic legacy. The course materials include academic studies and - occasionally - documentaries (One Square Mile, Detropia, New York), newspaper articles and survey reports.

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## ELECTIVE COURSES – MA & Advanced MA

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### Cluster 1

- 4219-SB111 *Liberation Theology in America*  
 4219-SB126 *From Calvinism to Transcendentalism: Genealogies of American Romantic Thought*  
 4219-SC118 *The Literature of Horror: Varieties of the American Gothic*  
 4219-SH109 *The American Women's Movement*  
 4219-SH175 *Bruce Springsteen's America: Working Class Hero*

### Cluster 2

- 4219-SA107 *The Civil War*  
 4219-SB102 *Freedom and Community. American Conservatism*  
 4219-SB111 *Liberation Theology in America*  
 4219-SE120 *Can Women Have It All? The US Debate on Female Careers and Maternity at the Turn of the Century*  
 4219-SF104 *The American Legal System*  
 4219-SF135 *Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World*  
 4219-SF145 *Democracy in America: Critical Perspectives from the Indigenous and African-American Experience*  
 4219-SG111 *U.S. and China*  
 4219-SH159 *Ethnic Relations in America - between conflict and assimilation*  
 4219-SH172 *Qualitative methods for American studies*  
 4219-SH175 *Bruce Springsteen's America: Working Class Hero*  
 4219-SH177 *From Rags to Riches - Making a Fortune in America*  
 4219-SH178 *History of Organized Crime in America*

### Cluster 3

- 4219-SA107 *The Civil War*  
 4219-SB102 *Freedom and Community. American Conservatism*  
 4219-SB111 *Liberation Theology in America*  
 4219-SF104 *The American Legal System*  
 4219-SF135 *Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World*  
 4219-SF138 *Evolution of the geopolitical situation of the world. Rise and fall of civilizations*  
 4219-SF145 *Democracy in America: Critical Perspectives from the Indigenous and African-American Experience*  
 4219-SG111 *U.S. and China*  
 4219-SH159 *Ethnic Relations in America - between conflict and assimilation*  
 4219-SH172 *Qualitative methods for American studies*  
 4219-SH175 *Bruce Springsteen's America: Working Class Hero*  
 4219-SH177 *From Rags to Riches - Making a Fortune in America*  
 4219-SH178 *History of Organized Crime in America*

Course ID: **4219-SA107**  
Course title: ***The Civil War***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

This course examines various events leading up to the Civil War and the intellectual and political causes defining the various sides. It also looks at how the war was fought and how this shaped the political attitudes of future generations towards this conflict; how it concluded and what policies followed after the war; how those policies shaped not only the future of American politics but also how it reshaped American attitudes about race, gender and economics.

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Course ID: **4219-SB102**  
Course title: ***Freedom and Community. American Conservatism***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Marcin Gajek***

The aim of the course is to trace the roots of modern American conservatism, its ideological, philosophical and political groundings, as well as to summarize its history.

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Course ID: **4219-SB111**  
Course title: ***Liberation Theology in America***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

The aim of the course Liberation Theology in America is a critical reflection on the cultural implication of the political involvement of theologians in public debate. We will start with the common opinion that it is a Marxists ideology. Exactly this “bad reputation” was the reason why Vatican violently opposed this type of theological reflection. Also the presence of this new way of approaching religious tradition in other religions will be taken into consideration particularly as a postcolonial phenomenon.

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Course ID: **4219-SB126**  
Course title: ***From Calvinism to Transcendentalism: Genealogies of American Romantic Thought***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The course focuses on the continuity of American intellectual debates concerning individual liberties and the relevance of tradition from the beginning of Puritan settlements in New England through the crisis of the New England Standing Order and the rise of Unitarianism and Transcendentalism in the early 19th century in Boston and Cambridge.

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Course ID: **4219-SC118**  
Course title: ***The Literature of Horror: Varieties of the American Gothic***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The course focuses on the history of American horror fiction from its beginnings at the turn of the 19th century to the 1930s. Starting with Charles Brockden Brown's tale, it begins with an analysis of specifically American gothic features contrasted to the original British formula of the genre. The continuity of the psychogothic is then traced in the tales of Washington Irving, Richard Henry Dana, Sr., Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville. The domestic gothic of the post-Civil War era (Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Annie Trumbull Slosson) is discussed in detail as well. Finally, horror as a popular mode of fiction is exemplified by the works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Robert W. Chambers, and H. P. Lovecraft.

Course ID: **4219-SE120**  
 Course title: ***Can Women Have It All? The US Debate on Female Careers and Maternity at the Turn of the Century***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Małgorzata Durska***

The course will analyze various aspects of the American social and cultural debate around female careers and maternity at the turn of the century. By looking at the narratives presented by media and pop-culture, the questions about the nature of this debate will be posed: Is the work-life balance considered to be a social policy issue or rather a purely psychological dilemma? Is the debate polarized or dominated by certain preconceptions? Focused on gender equality (women should not be discriminated), neoliberal order (women should be strong and competitive) or conservative backlash (women should stay at home)?

Course ID: **4219-SF104**  
 Course title: ***The American Legal System***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

The course is a general overview of the principal features of the American law and the operation of the legal system in the United States. The focus will be placed on the characterization of Anglo-Saxon common law tradition, the examination of main areas of American substantive and procedural law, as well as the analysis of international aspects of American law in relation to processes of globalization and US involvement in foreign politics and foreign military actions.

Course ID: **4219-SF135**  
 Course title: ***Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

America has always aroused passionate reactions. This course focuses on the negative perceptions of the USA in the 21st century. It will be a discussion of various forms of Anti-Americanism as well as a search for explanations of its sources. Is it policies? Is it values? Is it people? Is it power? Is it culture? We will try to capture the complexity of the phenomenon in various areas of the world. Are Arab, European and Asian sentiments similar or not?. We shall also examine how the negativity towards America plays in America: whether it reinforces isolationism? produces a backlash in the form of feelings of superiority? Contributes to perceptions of vulnerability? Finally, we shall look at a very indigenous variation of anti-Americanism, namely its domestic variation.



Course ID: **4219-SF138**  
Course title: ***Evolution of the geopolitical situation of the world. Rise and fall of civilizations***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Roman Szul***

The lecture is an attempt to present the geopolitical history of the world as a history of emerging, development (expansion), disintegration and fall (and sometimes rebirth) of civilizations, their mutual contacts and conflicts, from the most ancient times to the establishment of the contemporary world system, with special reference to the latest times and the role of the US-American civilization in it.

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Course ID: **4219-SF145**  
Course title: ***Democracy in America: Critical Perspectives from the Indigenous and African-American Experience***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Lisa K. Parshall***

This course critically evaluates American Democracy by exploring how well the United States measures up to its proclaimed democratic values. The course will highlight the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and African-Americans and their place within the American political system. We will address the extent to which the historical and contemporary legal and political treatment of these constituencies may be reconciled with democratic institutional norms and values.

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Course ID: **4219-SG111**  
Course title: ***U.S. and China***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the most important issues in the bilateral relations between "China" and the USA across the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century that some authorities have predicted will become "The Chinese Century" in contrast to "The American Century" in which all of us were born.

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Course ID: **4219-SH109**  
Course title: ***The American Women's Movement***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

A variety of writings from both the First and Second Wave of the American Women's Movement (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century) will be examined: historical documents (speeches and manifestos), essays, polemics, fragments of memoirs, short stories, poems. We will trace the basic arguments and controversies: the idea of social construction on gender, the question of equality and difference, the historical development of racial dynamics, debates concerning sexuality and sexual orientation. We will end with the most recent debates on backlash against and within feminism and the emergence of the Third Wave. Our main emphasis will be on variety and controversy.

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Course ID: **4219-SH159**  
Course title: ***Ethnic Relations in America - between conflict and assimilation***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Ewa Szczecińska-Musielak***

Sociological and anthropological analysis of ethnic relations in contemporary America.

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Course ID: **4219-SH172**  
Course title: ***Qualitative methods for American studies***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Krzysztof Kasianiuk***

We will discuss some basic features of scientific inquiry as a whole and qualitative research in particular. We will dig into specific techniques, such as interviews and observation, and evaluate the existing studies on American society, with regard to cultural and political issues. Students will be able to make a methodologically-based critique of the existing studies of their choice. Students will also have a chance to discuss methodological issues regarding their ideas for an American study.

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Course ID: **4219-SH175**  
Course title: ***Bruce Springsteen's America: Working Class Hero***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

We propose an interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse look at American working class since the World War 2 through the prism of Bruce Springsteen's songs and music. He will be our guide across many geographical locations: from New Jersey, through Detroit, to California valleys. America can be seen as a symbol of modern capitalist society. In this sense "the Boss's America" is a portrait of the (post)industrial world. His songs not only describe the world which is disappearing: the world of small towns, urban industrial working class, white ethnics with their anxieties and hopes. He also depicts the vitality of America. He also does not shy away from examining painful moments and tendencies in American history. Unlike that of Forest Gump, Springsteen's view is more emotional and more critical. His analysis of contemporary America defines the cultural identity built by experience of many generations.

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Course ID: **4219-SH177**  
Course title: ***From Rags to Riches - Making a Fortune in America***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Piotr Ostaszewski***

This course will look in depth at the impact that the automobile has had on American life and culture from the time of its introduction before World War I to the present day. New technologies always have an impact on society, but few have had such a profound impact as has the automobile. It is hard to find an area of life that has not been affected in a significant way. In some cases the automobile provided only the means for extending patterns of change that were already underway. In other cases it brought about entirely new ways of doing things and shaped the development of the nation, ushering in profound transformations of how Americans thought and lived.

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Course ID: ***4219-SH178***  
Course title: ***History of Organized Crime in America***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Piotr Ostaszewski***

The major purpose of the course is to familiarize students with history and evolution of the form of activities of the US organized crime. It includes the minimum knowledge of law, definitions of organized crime and diversity of form of its activities. The problem of the morality of law would be mentioned and discussed. Apart from all the comparative study with European and Asian organized crime (in different circumstances) will be done.

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