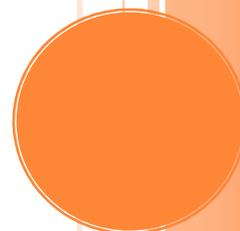


COURSE CATALOGUE

BA

FALL 2016

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



Course Catalogue – BA

FALL 2016

LECTURES

Course ID: ***4219-AW001***
Course title: ***History of the United States I***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. William Glass***

This lecture provides a general survey of American History from the Spanish exploration through Reconstruction. Students will become acquainted with the main developments in American politics, society, and culture of this era.

Course ID: ***4219-AW003***
Course title: ***American Literature I***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The present series of lectures focuses on the history of American literature and ideas in 1620-1865. The starting point is British colonization of North America as a result of the Reformation in Britain, which made Puritans seek religious freedom on the other side of the Atlantic. Lectures will cover the theology and colonial literature of the 17th and 18th century, the political ideas and literature of the Early Republic (the Enlightenment), the rise of American romanticism in its dark (Poe) and transcendentalist (Emerson) varieties, and the evolution of American poetry, fiction, and drama till the Civil War.

Course ID: ***4219-AW009***
Course title: ***American Society***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanovska***

The lecture presents basic dimensions of social life in the United States: American values and ideology, religion, work, consumption, social movements, social stratification, racial and ethnic groups, immigration, and family. The historical roots of contemporary social processes are discussed.

Course ID: ***4219-AW012***
Course title: ***Geography of the United States***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates***

An introduction to the theories and research methods of the discipline of geography with specific application to the study of the United States. The class seeks to introduce students to the geography of the US and the role of geography in the shaping of the USA.

Course ID: **4219-AW014**
Course title: ***American Cinema***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelik***

The course presents an overview of the history of American cinema, some representative genres, movies and artists. The participants will explore and examine facts as well as theories of the movies. Part of the course is devoted to interpretation of the most important American films (like *The Birth of the Nation*, *Citizen Kane*, etc.). Students should be able to apply the categories used in these classes for independent analysis of the movies as social and cultural phenomena.

Course ID: **4219-AW015**
Course title: ***History of Philosophy***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

In this course we will give up historical details and sophisticated philosophical language. In the spirit of American Pragmatism we will try to answer some fundamental questions, like existential questions.

Course ID: **4219-AW023**
Course title: ***Political Culture in the US***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

The course is a study of patterns of political participation in America. It also examines the relationship between the social capital and political participation. It looks at the way values are manifested in politics. It examines what Americans' attitudes to political institutions are and how these perceptions affect their efficacy and political behavior, including voting patterns.

Course ID: **4219-AW026**
Course title: ***History of American Art***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Justyna Wierzchowska***

The aim of the course is to present the development of American art of the last three centuries. The course will discuss the formation of American cultural identity as it manifested itself in a distinct artistic tradition, increasingly independent from the development of European art. American art grew in direct correlation to historical changes and was additionally determined by the North American geographical context. The course will examine the following phases of its development: (1) dependence from Europe; (2) the beginnings of the state: Classicism and Romanticism; (3) the growth of landscape painting; (4) Impressionism and Post-Impressionism at the turn of the 19th and 20th century; (5) American Modernism, (6) contemporary art.

ELECTIVE COURSES – II & III years

Cluster 1

4219-SA016	<i>American History Through Paintings</i>
4219-SB023	<i>The African-American Intellectual Tradition</i>
4219-SB033	<i>The Idea of America</i>
4219-SB042	<i>American Intellectuals - American Ideas</i>
4219-SB043	<i>Secular Religions of the Unites States</i>
4219-SC013	<i>Women of Wonder: Feminist and Queer Science Fiction</i>
4219-SC023	<i>American Poetry: from Modernism to Postmodernism</i>
4219-SC025	<i>Social worlds, fictional worlds: The American short story since World War Two</i>
4219-SC062	<i>American Jewishness at the Turn of the 21st Century: Culture, Film, Literature</i>
4219-SD010	<i>Popular Music and American Cultural Studies</i>
4219-SD059	<i>Women in African American music</i>
4219-SD072	<i>Andy Warhol</i>
4219-SH034	<i>The New Normal?: Normativity and Deviancy in American Culture and Society</i>

Cluster 2

4219-SA001	<i>The USA and World War II</i>
4219-SA016	<i>American History Through Paintings</i>
4219-SA017	<i>Vietnam in American Collective Memory</i>
4219-SA030	<i>American Post Cold War Social History (1992-2016)</i>
4219-SB006	<i>Dialogue as a Way to Overcome Cultural Divisions in America</i>
4219-SB023	<i>The African-American Intellectual Tradition</i>
4219-SB042	<i>American Intellectuals - American Ideas</i>
4219-SB043	<i>Secular Religions of the Unites States</i>
4219-SC062	<i>American Jewishness at the Turn of the 21st Century: Culture, Film, Literature</i>
4219-SE013	<i>Organizational Behavior</i>
4219-SF010	<i>Affirmative Action and its Critics</i>
4219-SF021	<i>US Constitutional Law</i>
4219-SF035	<i>Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World</i>
4219-SF041	<i>Civil Liberties in the US</i>
4219-SH022	<i>Labor and Class Conflict in American History</i>
4219-SH029	<i>Social and Cultural History of the United States in the 19th century</i>
4219-SH033	<i>Nations and Nationalism. Theory, History and Current Issues</i>
4219-SH034	<i>The New Normal?: Normativity and Deviancy in American Culture and Society</i>
4219-SH036	<i>RPG - The very best of America in me</i>

Cluster 3

<i>4219-SA001</i>	<i>The USA and World War II</i>
<i>4219-SA017</i>	<i>Vietnam in American Collective Memory</i>
<i>4219-SA030</i>	<i>American Post Cold War Social History (1992-2016)</i>
<i>4219-SB043</i>	<i>Secular Religions of the Unites States</i>
<i>4219-SF010</i>	<i>Affirmative Action and its Critics</i>
<i>4219-SF024</i>	<i>The 2016 American Elections</i>
<i>4219-SF035</i>	<i>Anti-Americanism in Contemporary World</i>
<i>4219-SF041</i>	<i>Civil Liberties in the US</i>
<i>4219-SH022</i>	<i>Labor and Class Conflict in American History</i>
<i>4219-SH029</i>	<i>Social and Cultural History of the United States in the 19th century</i>
<i>4219-SH033</i>	<i>Nations and Nationalism. Theory, History and Current Issues</i>

Course ID: ***4219-SA001***
 Course title: ***The USA and World War II***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

The Second World War made the United States a global Superpower-at least until 1948. This course focuses on those elements of American internal and international situation, which caused USA to enter the war and enabled it to play a decisive role in the Allied victory. On the basis of American documents, press materials, and memoirs, typical attitudes of political and military elites will be discussed.

Course ID: ***4219-SA016***
 Course title: ***American History Through Paintings***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Piotr Ostaszewski***

The major purpose of the course is to familiarize students with US historical events through paintings. Important events depicted by artists will be discussed so as to show how the artistic vision can be matched with real events and what does mean artistic invention. The course is based on 48 pictures from different epochs. On the other hand important is the critical approach to the painting so as to analyze to what extent the author was familiarized with the event he depicted. Some artisitic techniques will be shown so as to answer the question how the artist achieved his purpose. Logically everything will be verified with other sources from American history.

Course ID: ***4219-SA017***
 Course title: ***Vietnam in American Collective Memory***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Piotr Ostaszewski***

The major purpose of the course is to present the War in Vietnam as the problem in American collective memory. The brief outline of the War (causes and consequences) is only the basis for more profound analysis in the field of politics, sociology, cinematography,

literature, music and even computer games using the War in Vietnam. Simultaneously the author of the course wanted to show the problem of the Vietnam syndrome in the collective memory and to confront stereotypes with the real knowledge of the American society.

Course ID: **4219-SA030**
 Course title: ***American Post Cold War Social History (1992-2016)***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Włodzimierz Batóg***

In this course I would like to present and analyse changes and phenomena taking place in the US between 1992 and 2016. The Cold War, being a conflict between political superpowers significantly shaped international and domestic relations but also left a mark on issues at home in such aspects as culture, economy and society. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US came out of the conflict triumphant and barriers preventing some issues to appear seem to be gone. Also, some American patterns, due to globalization, became universal and widely copied in other parts of the world. Technology was another reason of changes. I would like to provide an extended answer to the question of what kind of a country the United States is. The course explores a wide array of exciting trends in contemporary American society, but while the focus is on the United States, we will also explore these subjects within comparative and historical frameworks as appropriate.

Course ID: **4219-SB006**
 Course title: ***Dialogue as a Way to Overcome Cultural Divisions in America***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

It seems that the clash of civilizations and its outcomes (conflicts, divisions, wars etc.) are the natural state of humanity – claims Samuel Huntington in his book. The clash of Civilizations. Accepting this state of things had led and leads to the confirmation of historical divisions. However, lately emerged other theories, which enable to overcome persistent conflicts and to regain lost unity.

Course ID: **4219-SB023**
 Course title: ***The African-American Intellectual Tradition***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

This course examines social, theoretical and political writings of Black intellectuals in the U.S. from the time of slavery until today, i.e. from Frederick Douglass to Henry Louis Gates and Toni Morrison. Emphasis is placed on debates and controversies concerning the cultural identity of black Americans and the strategies of resisting prejudice and discrimination.

Course ID: **4219-SB033**
 Course title: ***The Idea of America***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Franciszek Lyra***

As an aggregate of numerous components, “idea” associated with America, i.e. the United States of America has shaped, and continues to do so, the constituents of the fortune of America: the political, social, religious, and economic spheres expressed in rhetoric, para-literary texts, literature; in typology, metaphors, symbols, and apothegms. America is observed as a vision and as a land of antipodes. The range and depth of the course is determined by its time exigency.

Course ID: ***4219-SB042***
 Course title: ***American Intellectuals - American Ideas***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Marcin Gajek***

The course presents some of the most important ideas and theories introduced to academic and political discourse by American thinkers within the last few decades. It covers books and articles which have been widely recognized and discussed not only within the United States but in the whole academic and intellectual world. Some of those ideas are still influencing contemporary American politics and social affairs. It presents the works of several important intellectuals, political and social thinkers attempting to describe the contemporary world, globalized society and the place of the USA in it.

Course ID: ***4219-SB043***
 Course title: ***Secular Religions of the Unites States***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. James Morrison***

The United States is usually thought of as a very religious nation. At the same time, there are many, often competing, more specialized belief systems that are held firmly, “religiously,” by large numbers of people. Some of these “secular religions” grow out of or complement more traditional religions, but sometimes they seem at odds with many of the ideas that are taught in churches, synagogues and mosques. Some of these “secular religions” are held by small, extremist groups, but others are much more widely shared by most Americans. Sometimes these “secular religions” are in direct conflict with one another, but often they overlap and complement each other. Many of them play a significant role in the political and social life of the nation.

Course ID: ***4219-SC013***
 Course title: ***Women of Wonder: Feminist and Queer Science Fiction***
 Course coordinator: ***Mgr Agnieszka Kotwasińska, mgr Anna Kurowicka***

This course will examine a number of canonical SF novels and short stories by American writers in order to discuss the ways in which renowned authors such as Joanna Russ, Octavia Butler, Pat Cadigan, Nicola Griffith, James Tiptree Jr., Ursula K. Le Guin, Mary Doria Russell, and Samuel L. Delany have used SF to explore issues of science, reproduction, race and gender in the twentieth and twenty-first century American literature. The title, “Women of Wonder,” is a nod to the seminal anthology collection edited by Pamela Sargent in the 1970s and 1990s as well as an invitation to a discussion concerning gender dynamics in past and current SF texts.

Course ID: **4219-SC023**
 Course title: ***American Poetry: from Modernism to Postmodernism***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Warso***

The course will focus the work of several American poets (see the reading list below) and discuss them in the context of modernist and postmodern poetics and aesthetics while interrogating also the meaning of both adjectives. Course meetings will involve close reading of selected poems (or passages thereof), possibly accompanied by a handful of critical texts, and discussion.

Course ID: **4219-SC025**
 Course title: ***Social worlds, fictional worlds: The American short story since World War Two***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

Realist fiction can be read as a source of profound and intimate knowledge about society, offering insights not to be found in sociology and history books. This course examines a selection of short stories written since the Second World War by some of America's greatest writers, focusing on the social and cultural insights they offer. Our themes include race relations, class issues, gender, ethnicity (with focus on Jewishness) and immigration.

Course ID: **4219-SC062**
 Course title: ***American Jewishness at the Turn of the 21st Century: Culture, Film, Literature***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Karolina Krasuska***

The course looks at Jewishness in American literature, culture and film at the turn of the 21st century. We will discuss the issues of assimilation and acculturation, remembering the Shoah but also analyze gender and sexuality in the context of Jewishness, Jewish responses to 9/11, and the problems of new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Apart from literary works (e.g. by Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, Nathan Englander, Allegra Goodman, Gary Shteyngart, Michael Chabon, Anya Ulinich), we will consider a number of filmic and TV representations (e.g. Munich, Borat, Clueless, A Serious Man, Meet the Parents, The Daily Show, Seinfeld, The Nanny) and explore Jewish-American presence on the Internet.

Course ID: **4219-SD010**
 Course title: ***Popular Music and American Cultural Studies***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Przemysław Uściński***

The course aims at discussing contemporary popular music from the perspective of contemporary Cultural Studies, seeking to engage students in research, analysis and discussion of American music and its production, reception and influence on American culture. Concentrating on such issues as race, gender, difference, representation, genre, commodification, counterculture and subculture, performativity and parody, the course will seek to engage students in critical thinking about contemporary popular culture, music and

music videos, the image of performers and their celebrity status as well as the economic, social and political aspects of American music and entertainment industry.

Course ID: ***4219-SD059***
 Course title: ***Women in African American music***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Małgorzata Ziótek-Sowińska***

This course will present a survey of black women musicians (vocalists, instrumentalists) and composers-arrangers of the jazz tradition and musical genres from the 1880s to the present. We will analyze female artists in such musical styles as gospel, blues, jazz, rock, soul, Neo-soul, funk, disco hip-hop and rap.

Course ID: ***4219-SD072***
 Course title: ***Andy Warhol***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Tomasz Basiuk***

The course explores Andy Warhol's many connections to queer culture. We will watch some of Warhol's films, analyze his art works and his personal essays, read his major biographers, and examine a range of criticism pinpointing the importance of sexuality and gender roles to his life and his art. To call on Douglas Crimp's formulation of his interest in Warhol, the goal is not so much to see Warhol as an exemplary homosexual but rather to ask what it meant to be 'queer' before 'gay'.

Course ID: ***4219-SE013***
 Course title: ***Organizational Behavior***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Małgorzata Durska***

The course will offer a review of American concepts and theories that are applied in the field of organizational behavior. We will look at the main contributions from the disciplines of psychology, social psychology, sociology and political science. The topics covered will include: individual behaviour (attitudes development, personality, perception and learning), motivation, decision making, group behaviour (group structure and processes), leadership, power, conflict, and organisational system (structure, evaluation and organisational culture).

Course ID: ***4219-SF010***
 Course title: ***Affirmative Action and its Critics***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Sławomir Józefowicz***

Affirmative action refers to the preferential treatment of some minority groups and women in certain spheres of social life (e.g. employment, college admissions, public contracts). It is one of the great issues in the American culture wars and contemporary public debates. Some people strongly support it as fair compensation for past discrimination, while for others it amounts to nothing less than reverse discrimination. Both sides invoke grand moral principles and exchange arguments in the atmosphere of intense hostility and emotional fervor. The first aim of the course is to analyze the emergence of affirmative action against

the background of the history of racial relations in the United States (mainly its legal aspects) and especially of the Civil Rights movement. The second aim is to critically compare and evaluate the arguments of the defenders and critics of affirmative action as well as to assess the importance of the whole conflict for the American democracy.

Course ID: ***4219-SF021***
 Course title: ***US Constitutional Law***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

This course will survey the roots of the written U.S. Constitution in the unwritten British Constitution, explore how and why the American Constitution was proposed, ratified, and on occasion amended. This course surveys the distribution of national powers among the Congress, the president and the federal judiciary. After examining the fundamentals of judicial review and its limitations, the course considers the delegated powers of Congress and the tensions between Congress and the president in the exercise of national powers. Key concepts such as interstate commerce and Federal supremacy will be addressed. Selected aspects of the Bill of Rights such as the First Amendment's Freedom of the Press will be explored. The course concludes with an overview of governmental immunities.

Course ID: ***4219-SF024***
 Course title: ***The 2016 American Elections***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates***

The course aims to explain the complexity of American elections: federal and local for the 2016 election cycle. We shall trace the electoral process at all stages: from the announcement of the candidacy to general election. We will examine the way candidates build their election organizations, mobilize volunteers, construct their campaign agenda, relate to their parties and party platforms. Naturally, we shall also look at the use of the media in election campaigns, particularly at the role of political advertising, debates, and image creation in pursuit of support on the Election Day. Another aspect of this class examines the dynamics of the behavior of the American electorate.

Course ID: ***4219-SF035***
 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-SF041***
 Course title: ***Civil Liberties in the US***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

The format of this course is rather a "hybrid" model. American universities favour lectures by the instructor, largely parallel to textbook readings. European universities favour independent student readings and research, followed by discussions in the classroom. The focus of study is America. We are in Europe! Please read all cases before the class when these have been scheduled for discussion. Of course, students are encouraged to read more than the cases. The Supreme Court of the United States hands down decisions almost weekly from the first Monday in October until the end of June in each year. This means that what were once important cases may become overshadowed by newer decisions. In practise, each new year brings about more decisions to study in a course such as this! We want to stay on the cutting edge of legal change, and to do so we need to have access to the latest case books.

Course ID: ***4219-SH022***
 Course title: ***Labor and Class Conflict in American History***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. James Morrison***

In the current American presidential election, much is being said about growing economic inequality, the growing power and influence of big banks, multi-national corporations and the richest 1/10th of 1 percent of the population. The argument is often heard that the Democratic Party, traditionally the party of labor, has neglected (or even abandoned) the poor and the working class since the 1970s. The argument is also made that the wealthiest people in American society are waging class warfare on the poor, the working class, and even the middle class. This course will examine the validity of these claims and ask the question of whether any of this is really new or whether the entire history of the US has also been largely a history of class conflict. We will also examine if this conflict is becoming more important now that the vast majority of Americans who used to own their own farms (recently to large corporate farm businesses) and businesses—and largely escaped this conflict—have now sold their farms and small businesses and moved to the city and now work for other people instead of working for themselves. We will explore the consequences of this change for American society. Finally we will also look for instances in which there has been cooperation instead of conflict between people.

Course ID: ***4219-SH029***
 Course title: ***Social and Cultural History of the United States in the 19th century***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Włodzimierz Batóg***

This course introduces the key questions in the study of the nineteenth-century United States, including defining the early republic; the nature of American slavery; market expansion and urbanization; the Civil War and Reconstruction; and the place of the United States in the world. This course will allow students to understand cultural and social issues that took place in the 19th century.

Course ID: **4219-SH033**
 Course title: ***Nations and Nationalism. Theory, History and Current Issues***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Roman Szul***

Theory: definitions of nation and nationalism; primordialism, ethno-symbolism, constructivism; nationality and citizenship, nation and state, “East European” and “West European” meanings of nation and nationalism; proposal of a “comprehensive theory of nation”.

History: pre-modern roots of nations, nationalism and Christian universalism; early modern roots of nationalism, Enlightenment and nationalism; modernity and nationalism, romantic idea of nation, imperialism and nationalism, Islamism and Arab nationalism, liberalism and nationalism, communism and nationalism, Darwinism and nationalism, fascism and nationalism; European post-modernity and nationalism.

Selected cases of nationalism: USA, Poland, France, UK, Russia, Germany, China, Japan, Israel, etc.; stateless nationalisms.

Present issues : ethno-nationalist conflicts in post-cold war Europe, nationalist challenges to the European Union, immigration and nationalism in the USA and Europe, and others

Course ID: **4219-SH034**
 Course title: ***The New Normal?: Normativity and Deviancy in American Culture and Society***
 Course coordinator: ***Mgr Marta Usiekniewicz***

Thin – normal, fat – deviant; white – normal, black – deviant; male – normal, female – deviant; able-bodied – normal, disabled – deviant; straight – normal, gay – deviant; healthy – normal, sick – deviant; these binaries shape the way in which social reality is constructed and depicted. These norms, so often transparent, help exclude large numbers of Americans from being considered “American.” This course aims to investigate discourses regarding these binaries to see how deeply problematic they are for a country that has historically praised itself for accepting the “tired, poor ... huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” On the basis of pop cultural texts and critiques coming from gender and sexuality studies, fat studies, and disability studies, as well as studies of whiteness and privilege, the course will help students understand how power structures operate in raced, classed and gendered societies.

Course ID: **4219-SH036**
 Course title: ***RPG - The very best of America in me***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Krzysztof Kasianiuk***

The course aims at building and playing a role playing game (RPG) in which American historical and cultural personalities are the points of departure. We will explore America by referring to written texts, movies and games, chosen by participants themselves. We would agree on the goal(s) of the game, choose the avatars, write role descriptions, determine their mutual relations, rules and norms of behavior, as well as the environment they could live and achieve their goals. Finally, we will play the game and evaluate it.

SECTIONS

Course ID: ***4219-ZP001***
Course title: ***Academic Writing I***
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

The course is to prepare students to read, analyze and respond to academic texts and take part in academic discussions concerning various academic and social issues. The aim of the course is to teach students how to put in writing arguments and opinions derived on the basis of research.

Course ID: ***4219-ZP003***
Course title: ***Introduction to American Studies***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska***

The course discusses primary texts that are crucial for understanding of past and present American society and politics. Each class focuses on a particular theme and a selection of primary texts that have shaped American identity and are still debated by the American public. Among the additional, recommended materials there are history textbooks, secondary academic literature, documentaries and classic movies. In principle, the topics follow the chronology of American history but comparisons across historical epochs will be made, and the legacy of past events will be discussed.

Course ID: ***4219-AL001***
Course title: ***American Literature I***
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This course will survey the American literature and ideas of the period between 1620 and 1865. The starting point will be the establishment of the first colonies in North America; the finishing line marked by the Civil War. The seminars will be an occasion to read and discuss in depth some of the major American texts of the 17th and 18th century, the seminal texts in a variety of genres of the Early Republic and American Romanticism.
