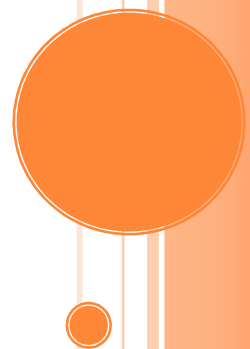


**COURSE CATALOGUE**  
**MA & ADVANCED MA**  
*FALL 2016*

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



# Course Catalogue – MA & Advanced MA

*FALL 2016*

## LECTURES – Advanced MA

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Course ID: ***4219-AW101-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American History I***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. William Glass***

In addition to providing a general review of American History from the Spanish exploration through Reconstruction, students will be exposed to a more in depth analysis of pivotal moments in American politics, society, and culture of this era.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW103-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American Literature I***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This course is not a survey of early American literature; it is predicated on the students' basic knowledge of the history of American belles-lettres. It's a more advanced course focused on selected works by a number of leading early American authors and on themes which are vital in American studies and in American intellectual history. Besides the classic texts, among the assigned readings are well-known critical texts suggesting new perspectives on early American letters.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW106-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in US Political System***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

The purpose of this class is to examine in some depth the process of policy making in Washington. We shall see public policy as a product of dynamic interplay of numerous actors (people and institutions) who compete for access and influence inside the beltway. In the process, we shall focus on a variety of "games": the agenda game, the media game, the coalition game. We will look at the roles played by elected and the unelected actors. In short, the course will try to explain how power flows, where it is located, how it manifests, and what forms it takes in modern day Washington.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW108-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in US Economy***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Andrzej Kondratowicz***

The course deals with Economic Freedom in the US, North America and in the World. It offers a look at the US economy through the glass of economic freedom (EF) concept and its five major components: size of the government; legal structure and the security of property rights; access to sound money; freedom to trade internationally; and regulation of credit, labor and business.

It starts with the introduction of the concept of EF and its relation to political freedom, as well as with the notion of institutions. Then the concept of EF measurement and specifically of Economic Freedom Index (EFI) is introduced. Finally, the EFI is used to characterize the US economy vis-à-vis other countries of the world, and to compare particular US states with Mexican states and Canadian provinces. Both, the cross-sectional (static) and time-series (dynamic) analysis will be carried out.

Students will be provided with free access to the relevant literature, data and software (all available on-line).

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Course ID: ***4219-AW109-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American Society***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sławomir Józefowicz***

The course will examine what is happening in American society today and how so many things have changed over the years, especially since the Great Depression. The course will be divided into 6 modules, each focusing on several inter-related topics, 1) Education, Science, Invention, Religion, 2) The American adventure in democracy and local organization and problem-solving, 3) Inequality, the free market, and the growth of media concentration, giant banks, multi-national corporations, and globalization, 4) Poverty, being left out, alienation, 5) Technology and its effects on society, 6) The environment and nature. Students will specialize in one of these modules and sub-topics and work together as a team to identify and solve problems in their area(s) of specialization.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW110-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in Audiovisual Culture in the USA***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelik***

The aim of the lecture is to introduce and explore various social and cultural aspects of contemporary audiovisual culture in the USA through the lens of historical and contemporary aesthetics. While the lecture will provide a general historical overview of the American audiovisual culture, particular attention will be paid to the transition from a modern to an electronic postmodern culture as well as the transformation from the analog to the digital. The lecture will also provide an overview of contemporary theories of media and visual culture.

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## LECTURES – MA

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Course ID: ***4219-AW101***  
Course title: ***American History 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.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW103***  
Course title: ***American Literature I***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The series of 15 lectures covers the Early Republic (1776-1820) and the Antebellum Period (1820-1861) preceding the Civil War. It presents key issues, developments, figures, groups, texts, and contexts characteristic of the first 85 years of US culture and literature, including its British Colonial roots.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW106***  
Course title: ***US Political System***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

This course seeks to introduce students to the American political system, focusing on the institutions and structures that shape American politics. It will look at the Constitutional frame that creates the political landscape in which American politics takes place. It will also attempt to address the various forces (political, social, and commercial) that compete with each other to influence what the government does.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW108***  
Course title: ***The US Economy***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Andrzej Kondratowicz***

The goal is to familiarize participants with the current state and selected historical development of the American economy. The lecture intends to analyze both the economic processes along with their outcomes and the institutional/structural features of the US economy. To achieve this goal some basic economic concepts will be introduced to the student. Then, basic economic institutions will be analyzed in the changing historical perspective. The US economy will be put into an international comparative perspective. Sources of available economic/statistical data will be indicated and the ways they are gathered and published shown. Stress will be put on finding and retrieving information from the internet sources.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW109***  
Course title: ***American Society***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska***

The lecture presents basic dimensions of social life in the United States: American values and ideology; role of slavery and immigration; racial and ethnic relations, social stratification, mobility and poverty; sexuality and family; religion; urban and suburban way of life; work and consumption. The historical roots of contemporary social processes are discussed.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW110***  
Course title: ***Audiovisual Culture in the USA***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelik***

The aim of the lecture is to introduce and explore various social and cultural aspects of contemporary audiovisual culture in the USA through the lens of historical and contemporary aesthetics. While the lecture will provide a general historical overview of the American audiovisual culture, particular attention will be paid to the transition from a modern to an electronic postmodern culture as well as the transformation from the analog to the digital. The lecture will also provide an overview of contemporary theories of media and visual culture.

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## ELECTIVE COURSES – Advanced MA

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### Cluster 1

*4219-SC122-A Wars in American Poetry*  
*4219-SC140-A AIDS Narratives*

### Cluster 2

*4219-SF131-A Democracy in America - Then and Now*

### Cluster 3

*4219-SF131-A Democracy in America - Then and Now*

Course ID: ***4219-SC122-A***  
 Course title: ***Wars in American Poetry***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This course will review American poetry from the American Civil War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, and War on Terror. We will trace the changing nature of the war lyric, study war poetry in the context of the developing American literature and American history and ideology. During the course we will discuss in detail the poetry of Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, John Allan Wyeth, Randall Jarrell, W. D. Ehrhart, Yusef Komunyakaa, Galway Kinnel.

Course ID: ***4219-SC140-A***  
 Course title: ***AIDS Narratives***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Tomasz Basiuk***

The course looks at narrative representations of AIDS, Persons Living with AIDS, their partners, families, friends, etc. The readings will include memoirs, fiction, and plays, as well as theoretical commentary. We will talk about the Names Project (the Quilt), and about one feature film and one documentary. For these, a viewing time outside of class time will be set up. Class participation is crucial. Responses to the readings will be required. There will be a mid-term and a final test. Term paper is optional and will count as bonus, but it is required for the top grade.

Course ID: ***4219-SF131-A***  
 Course title: ***Democracy in America - Then and Now***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates***

This course will offer students an opportunity to consider carefully Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* and then see the lasting importance of this classic for our understanding of the American democratic character. Our analysis will consider, among other things: the

relationship—historical and logical—between aristocracy and democracy; the instability of democracy; the institutional mechanisms that serve as antidotes to these instabilities; the significance of habit in Tocqueville's thought; the case for American Exceptionalism; the importance of religion for democracy; whether Tocqueville himself recognized the limits of his "institutional" political science; and finally, whether the problem of democracy is, in the final analysis, a psychological problem. The intention is less to defend what Tocqueville says than to begin to comprehend the way in which he thought through democracy and its problems.

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## ELECTIVE COURSES – MA & Advanced MA

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### Cluster 1

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| 4219-SA116 | <i>American History Through Paintings</i>  |
| 4219-SB123 | <i>The African-American Intellectual Tradition</i>                               |
| 4219-SB141 | <i>American Exceptionalism and Its Critiques: Theology, Politics, Literature</i> |
| 4219-SD158 | <i>Gendered Memories of the Holocaust</i>  |

### Cluster 2

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 4219-SA101 | <i>The USA and World War II</i>  |
| 4219-SA114 | <i>Topics in American Women's History</i>                              |
| 4219-SA116 | <i>American History Through Paintings</i>                              |
| 4219-SB123 | <i>The African-American Intellectual Tradition</i>                     |
| 4219-SB140 | <i>Religious and political fundamentalism as a threat to democracy</i> |
| 4219-SD158 | <i>Gendered Memories of the Holocaust</i>                              |
| 4219-SE113 | <i>Organizational Behavior</i>   |
| 4219-SF141 | <i>Civil Liberties in the US</i>                                       |
| 4219-SH106 | <i>Asians in the USA</i>   |
| 4219-SH127 | <i>American Innovation Culture</i>                                     |

### Cluster 3

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 4219-SA101 | <i>The USA and World War II</i>  |
| 4219-SB140 | <i>Religious and political fundamentalism as a threat to democracy</i> |
| 4219-SF141 | <i>Civil Liberties in the US</i>                                       |

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|---------------------|--|
| Course ID:          | <b>4219-SA101</b>                      |
| Course title:       | <b><i>The USA and World War II</i></b> |
| Course coordinator: | <b><i>Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień</i></b>     |

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.

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| Course ID:          | <b>4219-SA114</b>                                |
| Course title:       | <b><i>Topics in American Women's History</i></b> |
| Course coordinator: | <b><i>Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska</i></b>          |



The course seeks to explore more advanced topics in the history of women in the United States. We will focus on the 19th and the 20th century; the emphasis will be put on the critical examination of the issues of gender, class, race, and their intersections. The course will look at such topics as: women and war, women and medicine, women's political involvement or the images of women in popular culture.

Course ID: **4219-SA116**  
 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 artistic 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-SB123**  
 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-SB140**  
 Course title: ***Religious and political fundamentalism as a threat to democracy***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

One of the defining features of our time is the intense public debate around religious and political fundamentalism and its impact on the public sphere. The extent and depth of this debate cannot be over-estimated and it affects primarily our own self-identity. It is also a source of growing of religious and political polarization of American society

Course ID: **4219-SB141**  
 Course title: ***American Exceptionalism and Its Critiques: Theology, Politics, Literature***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The topic of the course is the idea of American exceptionalism (in reference to British colonies in North America and then the United States) in a joint theological, political, and

literary perspective from 1620 till the end of the Civil War. A list of primary texts includes sermons, political and literary essays, and poems by authors who supported the doctrine of American exceptionalism and those who criticized it.

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Course ID: ***4219-SD158***  
 Course title: ***Gendered Memories of the Holocaust***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Karolina Krasuska***

The course aims to interrogate the emerging field created by the intersection of Jewish Studies, Memory Studies and Gender Studies to study the literary and artistic representation of the Holocaust. The course covers the topics of how Memory of Holocaust is inscribed, framed, mediated and performed. It consists of two parts: an overview and theoretical introduction is followed by the analyses of the different forms, and sites of representation: literature, ego documents, films, internet, textbooks, statues, monuments, photos, oral histories, you-tube videos.

This course is a part of parallel teaching with prof. Andrea Peto at Central European University in Budapest. There will be 2 video conferences with the students in Budapest and probably a shared e-platform.

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Course ID: ***4219-SE113***  
 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).

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Course ID: ***4219-SF141***  
 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.

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Course ID: ***4219-SH106***  
 Course title: ***Asians in the USA***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

This course presents Asian immigration into the USA in the 19th and 20th century, mainly from China and Japan. We will analyze the causes of migration and the problems involved in the presence of a minority whose origins were non-European but also non-African; the assimilation process, its forms and its speed in various periods; the problem of the Japanese minority during World War II; migration from Indochina after 1975.

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Course ID: ***4219-SH127***  
 Course title: ***American Innovation Culture***  
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

In this course we will analyse how various cultural dimensions manifest themselves in individual, group and organisational behaviour, selected economic paradigms, managerial theories and methods, as well as United States governmental policies that all contribute to American innovation. They have done so historically, do so contemporaneously, and in all likelihood will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

We will also trace back the developments of American business institutions focusing upon some specific case studies, the changes in social perceptions of business leaders and the evolution of American business culture itself, applying these factors to American corporate prototypes that embody innovation in core industries that include food production and sanitation, communication and transportation in both civilian and military sectors, information collection, processing and storage, and applications such as social media that are changing constantly.

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Course ID: ***4219-ZP104***  
 Course title: ***Readings in American Studies (B2+)***  
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanovska***

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.