

COURSE CATALOGUE

BA

SPRING 2016

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



Course Catalogue – BA

SPRING 2016

LECTURES

Course ID: ***4219-AW002***
Course title: ***History of the United States II***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska***

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

Course ID: ***4219-AW004***
Course title: ***American Literature II***
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This lecture presents developments in U.S. literature following the Civil War, focusing on aesthetics as well as ideological sources and cultural contexts. We begin with Mark Twain and the rise of realism, examine naturalism and local color fiction, and look at the work of Henry James in some detail. After discussing the socially engaged literature of the thirties, we go on to examine key writers of Modernism, both poetry and prose, with the Harlem Renaissance discussed in a separate lecture. Major currents and schools in 20th century poetry are presented, as well as key developments in drama. Postmodernism is examined both as literary experimentation and a trend in cultural and literary theory. The final weeks are devoted to the diversity of recent American writing: the literature of various ethnic groups, key women writers since the 70s, the literary responses to 9/11 etc.

Course ID: ***4219-AW005***
Course title: ***United States and the World***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

This lecture will survey U.S. Foreign Policy since 1789, offering the undergraduate 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.

Course ID: **4219-AW006**
Course title: ***United States Government***
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.

Course ID: **4219-AW008**
Course title: ***Business Culture in the United States***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Małgorzata Durska***

We will analyze how different cultural dimensions manifest themselves in individual, group and organizational behavior, selected economic paradigms, managerial theories and methods as well as governmental policies. We will also trace back the developments of American business institutions, the changes in social perceptions of an American businessman and the evolution of American business culture itself.

Course ID: **4219-AW010**
Course title: ***Audiovisual Culture and Media in the United States***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelík***

The aim of this class 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. The transition from a modern to an electronic postmodern culture is a frame of reference. The lecture will provide an overview of contemporary theories of media and visual culture; classes will be in the form of lectures and screenings. Readings will include important works in media studies and contemporary theory in the visual arts. Student should get to know detailed history of audiovisual culture and categories from aesthetics which are indispensable to analyzing the visual material.

Course ID: **4219-AW011**
Course title: ***Key Methods in Cultural Studies***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Paweł Uściński***

Following the Cultural Studies pioneer Raymond Williams' initiative, and its more recent reformulations, the course explores key concepts and themes that have, for decades now, been shaping the diverse methodologies operating within and/or influencing the discourses of Cultural Studies in general and American Studies in particular. The lecture aims at tracing and exploring the problems and issues crucial and of ongoing interest in such research perspectives informing the field of Cultural Studies as discourse analysis and psychoanalysis, deconstruction, critical race studies, ethnic studies, gender, queer and sexuality studies, and postcolonial studies.

Course ID: **4219-AW025**
 Course title: **American Society - Part II**
 Course coordinator: **Dr Sławomir Józefowicz,**
Mgr Joanna Jastrzębska-Szklarska

The lecture analyzes the main waves of migration into area of what today is the United States since the colonial times to the present. Referring to the theories of international migrations, it explains history of colonial, slave, settlement, labor and political migrations. It offers a review of social histories and contemporary socio-economic status of major racial and ethnic groups. It explains how changing attitudes toward race and immigration have been reflected in racial ideologies, policies toward minorities and immigration law.

ELECTIVE COURSES – I year

Cluster 1

4219-SC005 *Beginning American Literature: Native American Writings of Origin and Continuance*
 4219-SD036 *American Film: an Introduction*
 4219-SH057 *American Values in Disney Animated Films*

Cluster 2

4219-SA003 *The USA - A Colonial Empire?*
 4219-SA021 *History of Women in the United States*
 4219-SB035 *Current Debates in American society*
 4219-SF039 *The Free Market: Advocates and Critics*
 4219-SH015 *Race and Social Class in American City*
 4219-SH057 *American Values in Disney Animated Films*

Cluster 3

4219-SA003 *The USA - A Colonial Empire?*
 4219-SB035 *Current Debates in American society*
 4219-SF025 *Introduction to Politics*
 4219-SF039 *The Free Market: Advocates and Critics*

Course ID: **4219-SA003**
 Course title: **The USA - A Colonial Empire?**
 Course coordinator: **Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień**

One of the most interesting issues of American history is that of territories belonging to the USA and being neither States nor Territories of the Union. The cases of such areas throughout US history will be discussed on the basis of political programs, doctrines and disputes as well as policies applied to solve them from the plans of seizing the Caribbean Islands in early 19th century to the contemporary issue of Puerto Rico.

Course ID: **4219-SA021**
Course title: ***History of Women in the United States***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska***

This course will study the experiences of women in American history from the colonial era to the present. In particular, we will consider the evolving ideologies that have defined the role of women in American society, the realities of women's lives in the home and at work, the quest of women to gain full civic and political rights, and the variations race and class have imposed on these themes.

Course ID: **4219-SB035**
Course title: ***Current Debates in American society***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Marcin Gajek***

The purpose of the course is to make students familiar with most important social and political debates in contemporary American society. We will discuss such divisive issues as abortion, gun control, capital punishment, (illegal) immigration, gay rights, etc. We will discuss both competing views and legal regulations concerning those matters.

Course ID: **4219-SC005**
Course title: ***Beginning American Literature: Native American Writings of Origin and Continuance***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Gabriela Jeleńska***

The course is a survey of Native American literature with emphasis on themes and issues prevalent throughout its development. It is meant to raise awareness of a vast body of oral literature that existed on the continent prior to first contact. It is designed to familiarize first year students with diverse literary forms and devices, and equip them with the ability to critically read and respond to various types of oral and written texts. The structure and narration techniques typical of Native American literary works will be the focus of our attention. We will discuss examples of Indian ceremonial chants and oratory, creation and trickster stories of various tribes, as well as short stories, memoirs, and (auto)biographies. Chosen literary works of prominent contemporary Native American writers (e.g N. Scott Momaday, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrich, Sherman Alexie, Simon Ortiz) will serve as an example of continuance and creative response and reworking of tradition.

Course ID: **4219-SD036**
Course title: ***American Film: an Introduction***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelik***

The course is meant as an introduction to American film: its history, genres, and conventions. We will read a number of texts on American cinema and watch movies as an illustration as well as grounds to discuss such topics as: modes of film interpretation, film theory, political and social significance of film, the usefulness of various other fields of knowledge (such as psychoanalysis, history, gender studies, art theory) to the study of film.

Course ID: **4219-SF025**
Course title: ***Introduction to Politics***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates Jr***

This is a general social science level introduction to the study of politics. The course offers a general introduction to political science. The topics to be introduced to the students include basic concepts such as power, authority, legitimacy; types of political systems and approaches to the study of politics; problems common to all political systems.

Course ID: **4219-SF039**
Course title: ***The Free Market: Advocates and Critics***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. James Morrison***

This course will examine both the advocates and critics of the Free Market, both historically and in recent years. First we will consider the historical role of the market in human economics and how it differs from the concept of the free market. Then we will explore the many advantages of the free market, followed by a survey of the critics of the Free Market over the years, including a detailed analysis of their moral and practical criticisms of the system. Next we will look at how the free market managed to operate with some real success over the years and whether the conditions that made it work have been changing in the past 40 years. Then we will examine why the system has been so widely and uncritically accepted by almost everyone, including those who suffer most. Finally we will explore some of the many proposals that have been made for reforming, transforming, or completely changing the free market system.

Course ID: **4219-SH015**
Course title: ***Race and Social Class in American City***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska***

The course gives an overview of ethno-racial and social class relations in American northern cities between the period of urban decay of the 1960s and the present. The course focuses on New York City but studies also Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. It discusses changes in the Northern cities since the late 1960s: deindustrialization and changing job market, fiscal crisis and population drop, racial and socioeconomic diversity and conflict, revitalization of some cities, immigration and gentrification of their neighborhoods while the decline of other cities. The course materials include sociological and ethnographic studies, movies by three New York City directors: Martin Scorsese, Woody Allen and Spike Lee, popular press articles and documentaries.

Course ID: **4219-SH057**
Course title: ***American Values in Disney Animated Films***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Justyna Fruzińska***

The course will be devoted to a discussion of Walt Disney Company's post-1989 animated films, examining how the typical plot of a Disney film is constructed and how it reflects American values such as individualism, capitalism or the democratic spirit. Students will watch chosen productions (eg. *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Treasure Planet*) and compare them with their literary sources. We shall discuss changes introduced by Disney, with a particular focus on the ideological ones.

ELECTIVE COURSES – II & III years

Cluster 1

4219-SC007	<i>The American Short Story</i>
4219-SD028	<i>Haunted Space in American Culture</i>
4219-SD030	<i>Introduction to Media/New TV Genres</i>
4219-SD031	<i>Blues. The Voice of a Black Soul</i>
4219-SD077	<i>Rock and Roll – Its History and Place in American Society</i>
4219-SE018	<i>Communicating At American Workplace</i>
4219-SH019	<i>Disability in Contemporary and Twentieth Century American Culture</i>
4219-SH024	<i>Extreme Virtue</i>

Cluster 2

4219-SA025	<i>African-American History</i>
4219-SD028	<i>Haunted Space in American Culture</i>
4219-SD031	<i>Blues. The Voice of a Black Soul</i>
4219-SD032	<i>Representations of Society in American Art of the XX Century</i>
4219-SD077	<i>Rock and Roll – Its History and Place in American Society</i>
4219-SE004	<i>The Institutions of American Economic Growth</i>
4219-SE018	<i>Communicating At American Workplace</i>
4219-SH018	<i>Great Contemporary Debates of American Politics and Society</i>
4219-SH019	<i>Disability in Contemporary and Twentieth Century American Culture</i>
4219-SH024	<i>Extreme Virtue</i>

Cluster 3

4219-SB036	<i>The Creation of the American Constitution</i>
4219-SE004	<i>The Institutions of American Economic Growth</i>
4219-SF003	<i>The American Presidency</i>
4219-SF006	<i>American Political Parties: the Past and the Present</i>
4219-SF011	<i>The Monroe Doctrine and American Presence in Latin America</i>
4219-SF015	<i>The Choice 2016 – Electoral Process In USA</i>
4219-SF019	<i>American-Polish relations</i>
4219-SH018	<i>Great Contemporary Debates of American Politics and Society</i>
4219-SH024	<i>Extreme Virtue</i>

Course ID:	4219-SA025
Course title:	<i>African-American History</i>
Course coordinator:	<i>Prof. William Glass</i>

A survey of the experience of African-Americans from colonial times to the present, with special emphasis on the topics of slavery, racism, black identity, gender, the civil rights movement, and the contributions of African Americans to the development of American society and culture.

Course ID: **4219-SB036**
Course title: ***The Creation of the American Constitution***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates Jr***

This course will examine the historical background that led to the establishing the United States Constitution of 1787 and to the period immediately following that shaped the various institutions established by the Constitution. Students will come to understand the political crisis faced by the Government of the US under the Articles of Confederation and how the majority of political leaders around the country came to the conclusion that a new constitution was needed. Students will closely examine the Philadelphia Convention and the ratification debates that followed in the States. The course will then focus on the 20-year period following the creation of the new government, seeing how the new Constitution was put into practice.

Course ID: **4219-SC007**
Course title: ***The American Short Story***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Franciszek Lyra***

In American literary history the short story is the most original genre, its „elusive forms” (J. A. Cuddon) notwithstanding. The course offers an overview of its American history, starting with Washington Irving, a representative of American Romanticism, to David Leavitt, a writer in the epoch of AIDS and postmodernism.

Course ID: **4219-SD028**
Course title: ***Haunted Space in American Culture***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Agnieszka Kotwasińska***

This course will examine the many functions and types of haunted spaces existing in American culture, such as the haunted house trope and uncanny architecture, the actual mourning sites and the politics of memory, and the uncanny spectrality of new media.

Course ID: **4219-SD030**
Course title: ***Introduction to Media/New TV Genres***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Paulina Kozłowska***

From quality television to reality TV, the American television environment changes rapidly, and this course aims to introduce students to TV genres both new and old.

Course ID: **4219-SD031**
Course title: ***Blues. The Voice of a Black Soul***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Paulina Półkoźic-Dąbkowska***

The aim of the course is to explore blues as an important medium of expression for African-Americans. The course presents a bluesman as a poet and a spokesman for the black

community. We will examine such concepts as double consciousness, blues identity, blues as a form of protest and black feminism. We will also search for blues in literature.

Course ID: ***4219-SD032***
 Course title: ***Representations of Society in American Art of the XX Century***
 Course coordinator: ***Mgr Diana Stelowska-Morgulec***

The course will discuss the roots of American culture of the XX century (search for American identity, Native-American and African-American problems, Great Depression, WWII, immigration etc.) and its influence on American Art. The aim of the course is to show how the patchwork construction of American society has been mirrored in art. It was no surprise that after WWII the capital of art has moved from Paris to New York - a city for all. Different influences coming from Europe, but also from the Wild West, African-American and Native-American circles enriched American culture resulting in art movements later praised all over the world. Lately the Asian culture is also finding its way into American popular culture and art. The course aims at depicting how the demographic, historic and social situation have influenced and shaped art in the United States of America.

Course ID: ***4219-SD077***
 Course title: ***Rock and Roll – Its History and Place in American Society***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Włodzimierz Batóg***

Rock and Roll is more than just a music style. It is an extremely important and influential social factor. It is also the single most potent economic factor in the rock industry. Musically, rock has influenced the music we have in films, television and in commercials. It has influenced jazz, church music and even its ancestors, rhythm and blues and country and western. Socially, rock culture's influence has been visible in hairstyles, clothing language, lifestyles, language, and politics. This is why historians and social commentators must devote significant consideration to rock and roll being one of the primary forces in American society as a whole – socially, politically, economically, musically, and culturally. Any force of this kind of impact on society deserves study. This is what this course will be about.

Course ID: ***4219-SE004***
 Course title: ***The Institutions of American Economic Growth***
 Course coordinator: ***Prof. Wojciech Bieńkowski***

The course examines the institutional history of the United States as an approach to economics, and assess factors of growth, their past development and how they impact future expansion.

Course ID: ***4219-SE018***
 Course title: ***Communicating At American Workplace***
 Course coordinator: ***Dr Małgorzata Durska***

The course will have a format of a workshop. It is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of effective business communication tools and practices as they function in today's American business. It will cover major elements of written and oral organizational communication with specific focus on building goodwill among receivers, bias-free language and positive emphasis. The cultural context and specificity of business communication in the United States will be emphasized.

Course ID: ***4219-SF003***
Course title: ***The American Presidency***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

The class will be devoted to the study of the American presidency and its interactions with political actors in Washington and with the political community outside of the Beltway. We will focus on the policy making functions of the presidency.

Course ID: ***4219-SF006***
Course title: ***American Political Parties: the Past and the Present***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Marcin Gajek***

This course looks at the American party system: both its history and its present state. Special attention will be paid to the electoral process (the emergence of candidates, pre-elections; party conventions; campaigns before presidential, congress and local elections) and the way parties are organized in the Congress. We will discuss the methods of struggling for power and how power is executed. We will examine political careers of chosen party leaders throughout American history. We will look at the evolution, specificity and tactics of two major political parties as well as some less known political groups.

Course ID: ***4219-SF011***
Course title: ***The Monroe Doctrine and American Presence in Latin America***
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

One of the most controversial issues in the history of U.S. foreign policy is the one of American presence south of the Rio Grande River. Its various forms will be discussed in historical perspective. Diplomatic and state papers and documents, press publications, memoirs and speeches, mostly American, will serve as primary sources.

Course ID: ***4219-SF015***
Course title: ***The Choice 2016 - Electoral Process In USA***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

This is a RESEARCH seminar which will consist of two Basic parts: 15 hours of regular classroom work and 15 hours of special research assignments related to a multitude of issues present in the Campaign 2016. The purpose of the class is to study and understand the

dynamics of American electoral process and to learn methodologies of data retrieval and analysis. Writing and reporting skills will be enhanced too.

Course ID: ***4219-SF019***
Course title: ***American-Polish relations***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Piotr Szyja***

The aim of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding (and appreciation) of the relations between the United States and Poland in many dimensions. Students will be equipped with intellectual tools to understand and appreciate the complexity and depth of said relations. Those tools will in turn enable to students to independently and individually analyze current events. This topic is unfortunately popular neither in Poland nor in America, which to a certain extent stems from the assumption that those relations are of low importance for both sides and of low intensity. This course attempts to prove this assumption wrong and present students with the knowledge of very rich history of American ties to Poland and with understanding of the depth, multidimensionality, intensity and international context of current relations.

Course ID: ***4219-SH018***
Course title: ***Great Contemporary Debates of American Politics and Society***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Andrzej Filipiak***

The course is an introduction to selected fundamental political and intellectual debates, which, although often initiated or developed by American thinkers, clearly have a universal, global significance. The examples of ideas and movements which will be discussed, compared and contrasted include: end of history (Fukuyama) v. clash of civilizations (Huntington), pacifism v. just war theory, postmodernist pragmatic liberalism v. communitarianism, the New Left v. conservative republicanism, same-sex marriage v. defense of traditional marriage.

Course ID: ***4219-SH019***
Course title: ***Disability in Contemporary and Twentieth Century American Culture***
Course coordinator: ***Mgr Natalia Pamuła, Mgr Marta Usiekniewicz***

In this class we will discuss ways in which disability is understood in 20th and 21st century American culture. On the basis of literary, film and television representations of disability we will attempt to deconstruct existing notions of ability and disability, as well as consider alternative ways of conceptualizing health and disease. In the course we aim to challenge received notions of norms and deviations.

Course ID: ***4219-SH024***
Course title: ***Extreme Virtue***
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Randall Auxier***

This course examines six American radicals and how their ideas, thought to be so dangerous during their lifetimes, came to be standards of culture and politics in subsequent times. We will look at the various virtues each radical upheld as a key contributing factor to contemporary American character, and as having tapped into some traits that were present in US history prior to their introduction into explicit, mainstream American life. The figures are Emma Goldman, Voltairine de Cleyre, Lame Deer, Barry Goldwater, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will choose one of these figures to concentrate on during the course.

SECTIONS

Course ID: ***4219-ZP002***
Course title: ***Academic Writing II***
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser,***
Mgr Marta Usiekniewicz

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-AL002***
Course title: ***American Literature II***
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This course is on the developments in American literature—fiction, poetry, drama—from the end of the Civil War until the present. It looks at changing literary styles, themes and assumptions concerning the role of literature. We will look at realism, naturalism and local color fiction, modernism, the Harlem Renaissance, politically engaged literature of the 30s, the post-war generation, postmodernism and finally the diverse literatures of contemporary multi-ethnic America including examples of very recent fiction. Significant attention will be paid to the evolving cultural context of literature: debates about the meaning of American identity, the changing role of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality.
