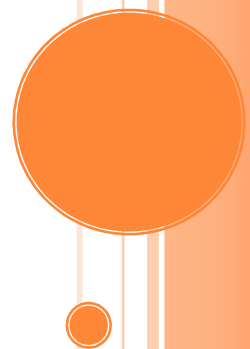


**COURSE CATALOGUE**  
**MA & ADVANCED MA**  
*SPRING 2016*

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



# Course Catalogue – MA & Advanced MA

*SPRING 2016*

## 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***

The aim of the course is to look at cultural representations of people, places and objects that terrify or repulse us and to analyze them with the help of critical theory.

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Course ID: ***4219-AW107-A***  
Course title: ***Advanced topics in American Thought***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates Jr***

This course provides students with a general introduction to the history of American thought, focusing on the major American Philosophers from the Colonial era to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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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 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 dedicated software (all available on-line).

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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-AW107***  
Course title: ***American Thought***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Clifford Bates Jr***

This course provides students with a general introduction to the history of American thought, focusing on the major American Philosophers from the Colonial era to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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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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## **ELECTIVE COURSES – Advanced MA**

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### **Cluster 1**

*4219-SC137-A War as Metaphor in Modern America*  
*4219-SC161-A Cultural Implications of the Holocaust in the USA, Israel and Europe*  
*4219-SH149-A American Digital Culture*

### **Cluster 2**

*4219-SC161-A Cultural Implications of the Holocaust in the USA, Israel and Europe*  
*4219-SH149-A American Digital Culture*

### **Cluster 3**

*4219-SC137-A War as Metaphor in Modern America*  
*4219-SF116-A American Libertarianism - Theory, Practice, Critique*

Course ID: **4219-SB137-A**  
Course title: ***War as Metaphor in Modern America***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. William Glass***

In this course we will explore the use of war as a metaphor in various social, cultural, and political contexts in the modern United States. The starting point for our discussions will be how film makers and documentarians have presented the issue in their movies, and from there we will consider who the combatants are, their strategy and tactics, their campaigns, and the way these wars are shaping contemporary America. We will begin the course studying how wars, hot and cold, have shaped the United States. Then we will move to the use of war as metaphor in non-military contexts as in culture wars and wars on science, labor, women, religion, Christmas, and drugs.

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Course ID: **4219-SC161-A**  
Course title: ***Cultural Implications of the Holocaust in the USA, Israel and Europe***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

The question whether after the Holocaust it is possible to write poetry, or, from a theological perspective, does it make sense to speak about God after Auschwitz, is not a rhetorical one. The fact of the annihilation of European Jewry demands to redefine basic concepts of the entire European civilization. How was the Holocaust possible might remain without a final and definite answer, but the impossibility to find a reasonable explanation doesn't mean that we have to stop philosophical and theological reflections on this phenomenon.

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Course ID: **4219-SF116-A**  
Course title: ***American Libertarianism - Theory, Practice, Critique***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Sławomir Józefowicz***

The course introduces students to American libertarianism - one of the most distinctive ideologies in the U.S. The program is divided into three parts. The first includes origins, philosophy and theory of American libertarianism in its most prominent variations. Both anarcho-capitalist and "minarchist" currents are covered, as well as left-libertarianism. The second part deals with the political and economic practice of contemporary libertarians (activities of the Libertarian Party, phenomenon of the Tea Party movement, etc). In the third part various critiques of libertarianism are reconstructed and discussed. This course is to give students not only good understanding of constitutive ideas of American libertarianism and their practical realizations, but also enable them to critically interpret libertarian theory and practice in a wider context of current debates over freedom and property in American society.

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Course ID: **4219-SH149-A**  
Course title: ***American Digital Culture***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Paweł Frelik***

The course will focus on a broad phenomenon most commonly known as new media or digital culture. Its manifestations and preoccupations are varied and include the Internet, video-gaming, electronic literature, blogging as a private and social practice, remix cultures, alternate reality gaming, copyright wars, and online communities.

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## ELECTIVE COURSES – MA & Advanced MA

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### Cluster 1

4219-SB129	<i>American Individualism</i>
4219-SC112	<i>American Modernist Prose</i>
4219-SC151	<i>Images of Native Americans</i>
4219-SD133	<i>American Popular Music from 1900 to the Present &amp; Deconstruction</i>
4219-SD153	<i>African Americans in Film During Jim Crow</i>
4219-SD155	<i>Gender and Sexuality in Hollywood Films of the Classical Era</i>
4219-SH145	<i>New York. The City and Its People</i>
4219-SH169	<i>Language as a Political Question. History and the Present Situation</i>

### Cluster 2

4219-SA115	<i>Social history of the United States after 1945</i>
4219-SA118	<i>The Vietnam War</i>
4219-SB114	<i>Memory as the Theme in American Philosophy and Culture</i>
4219-SB129	<i>American Individualism</i>
4219-SD153	<i>African Americans in Film During Jim Crow</i>
4219-SD154	<i>The Automobile in American Culture</i>
4219-SF121	<i>US Constitutional Law</i>
4219-SG109	<i>America Pivots to Asia</i>
4219-SH145	<i>New York. The City and Its People</i>
4219-SH171	<i>America Through European Eyes</i>

### Cluster 3

4219-SA115	<i>Social history of the United States after 1945</i>
4219-SA118	<i>The Vietnam War</i>
4219-SF103	<i>The American Presidency</i>
4219-SF115	<i>The Choice 2016 – Electoral Process In USA</i>
4219-SG104	<i>Interventionism In the History of American Foreign Policy</i>
4219-SG109	<i>America Pivots to Asia</i>
4219-SG118	<i>Problems In the U.S. – Cuban Relations</i>
4219-SH148	<i>Guns and Violence in American Society</i>
4219-SH169	<i>Language as a Political Question. History and the Present Situation</i>
4219-SH171	<i>America Through European Eyes</i>

Course ID:	<b>4219-SA115</b>
Course title:	<b><i>Social history of the United States after 1945</i></b>
Course coordinator:	<b><i>Prof. Włodzimierz Batóg</i></b>

This course will explore social relations and cultural practices that have both united and divided Americans. Using the end WW 2 as our starting point, we will move through the chronology of American social history. From multiple perspectives, we will examine who had been included and excluded intaking part in the “American Dream.” We will address the trends, conditions, and events that contributed and reflected the tenor of a multiethnic America. In particular, we will examine how people influenced the structural changes that both promised and limited their liberty and equality. What was the American Dream? How was freedom and equality understood and exercised by different groups of people in the

United States? Among the subjects that will be discussed include: the and social institutions, rise of mass culture and consumer culture, immigration and ethnicity, changing gender and sexual norms, religion and the role of technology in the American society.

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Course ID: **4219-SA118**  
Course title: ***The Vietnam War***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

Started during the World War II, the conflict in Indochina became in the 1960's and 1970's the second great military confrontation of Cold War in Asia, after the Korean War. Between 1965 and 1973 the U.S.A. and several of its allies were militarily engaged there. The course will focus on those events as well as on the enormous impact of them on both international and domestic situation of the United states. The historical background of the conflict and its consequences for all the participants will be analyzed as well.

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Course ID: **4219-SB114**  
Course title: ***Memory as the Theme in American Philosophy and Culture***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Stanisław Obirek***

The problem of memory as a theme in American philosophy and culture will be developed, in class, in different directions. The aim of the course is to present a critical reflection on memory. The question is, if memory is only a remembrance of the past, or if it is also a way to cope with the present. But first of all the concept of memory needs to be redefined. To begin with Maurice Halbwachs his concepts of collective memory, and religious and individual and their mutual relationship will be discussed. Thanks to a theory elaborated by Paul Connerton it will be possible to include in the reflections on memory also strategies of forgetting.

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Course ID: **4219-SB129**  
Course title: ***American Individualism***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The course focuses on the shaping and history of the American discourse of individualism, which developed in opposition, first, to the Puritan orthodoxy in Massachusetts, and second, to the "tyranny of England" and the political and cultural domination of Europe. Moreover, the non-white "American selves" will be taken into considerations, exemplified by "A Son of the Forest," an autobiography of a Pequot Indian William Apess, Frederick Douglass' classic slave narrative, and "The History of Mary Prince." An outsider's point of view will be represented by Fanny Trollope's reportage "Domestic Manners of the Americans," an account of an Englishwoman who visited the United States at about the same time as Alexis de Tocqueville, but was much less impressed by the features of the American people.

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Course ID: **4219-SC112**  
Course title: ***American Modernist Prose***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Grzegorz Kość***

This course will review American modernists' formal innovations and examine them against those of the preceding realists. It will also interpret how by relying on modern formal experimentation, modernists tried to capture the zeitgeist of their era, the political, social, and cultural conditions of their time. The course will focus on the major figures of the American modernism in fiction—Henry James, Dos Passos, Hemingway and Faulkner.

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Course ID: **4219-SC151**  
Course title: ***Images of Native Americans***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Marek Wilczyński***

The course focuses on representations and self-representations of Native Americans in American literature of the Early Republic and the Antebellum Period. A wide range of texts, from William Apess's "Eulogy on King Philip" and the political appeals of Emerson and Child, through a number of novels (Brown, Bird, Cooper), poems (Bryant, Freneau, Longfellow), and travels accounts (Bartram, Irving) reveals a tension between stereotypical models of the "noble" and "ignoble savage." On the margin of the literary canon and the dominant social discourses, some American writers (Bartram, Child, Snelling, Simms) attempted to come up with more ethnographically oriented descriptions of Indian communities and cultures, thus originating today's anthropological approaches.

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Course ID: **4219-SD133**  
Course title: ***American Popular Music from 1900 to the Present & Deconstruction***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Robert Bond***

An examination of how and why original styles of American popular music were created and became international sensations. Study of the correlation of the theory of deconstruction, as attributed to French philosopher Jacques Derrida, and its role as a common thread in the creative process. Parallel shifts in society, politics and technology and their impact upon the music will also be examined chronologically.

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Course ID: **4219-SD153**  
Course title: ***African Americans in Film During Jim Crow***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. William Glass***

In this course, we will explore the contested images of African Americans in American film from the earliest movies through those produced in the Civil Rights era. We look at the ways both white and black film makers created and perpetuated demeaning stereotypes as well as how those stereotypes were challenged. We will consider the ways in which careers of African American performers and film makers represented both the limitations and the possibilities of making a living in movies. Finally, we will analyze how these films represent a chronicle of African American society and culture during the time in which Jim Crow ruled and was eventually destroyed.

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Course ID: ***4219-SD154***  
Course title: ***The Automobile in American Culture***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. James Morrison***

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-SD155***  
Course title: ***Gender and Sexuality in Hollywood Films of the Classical Era***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser***

The course familiarizes students with the evolution of gender stereotypes as well as the conventions of representing desire (both normative and non-normative) in Hollywood films of the Classical Era (30s, 40s and 50s). Movies of various genres will be discussed in the light of feminist and queer film criticism. We will consider social and cultural contexts, among other things: the impact of World War II on gender roles in the U.S., the politics of censorship and its result in Hollywood's handling of sex and gender, and the relationship between the Cold War and homophobia.

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Course ID: ***4219-SF103***  
Course title: ***The American Presidency***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

The goal of this class is to demonstrate the complexity of the (post)modern American Presidency. We shall examine the scope of presidents powers and methods of their utilization between the imperial and caretaker variance; we will look at the variety of presidential roles both in domestic and foreign policy. A series of case studies will illustrate how in the complex entanglements between the public, the Capitol Hill, and the bureaucracy, presidents manage American politics, how they exercise their prerogatives, and how they handle the enormous temptation of power abuse. Departing from the structural and historical analyses, we will try to examine how the personal qualities of the inhabitants of the White House affect their performance in office and the scope of powers of the institution itself. The Presidency is the most powerful office in the United States, yet its capacity is never fixed. It always depends on the context of times and the skills of each office holder.

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Course ID: ***4219-SF115***  
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.

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Course ID: ***4219-SF121***  
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.

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Course ID: ***4219-SG104***  
Course title: ***Interventionism In the History of American Foreign Policy***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

This course examines military and political actions undertaken by various administrations against states with which the US was not at war at the time-actions whose aim was to compel the states in question to change their position radically in accordance with US interests. Political and military aspects of such events will be studied on the basis of specific cases in a chronological arrangement - from the beginning of the American state until today.

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Course ID: ***4219-SG109***  
Course title: ***America Pivots to Asia***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. David Jones***

Midway through his administration, United States President Barack H. Obama announced his intent for United States foreign policy to make a "pivot to Asia," apparently indicating his aim to redirect some elements of American foreign policy away from Europe and the Middle East and into the Western Pacific Rim, concentrated at least facially on the South China Sea primarily, the East China Sea also. Assets redeployed have included air, land, and especially naval forces with both firepower and reconnaissance capabilities. This realignment has been welcomed by Chinese Taiwan, Japan, most members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc, opposed as hegemonic provocation by the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and viewed with some ambiguity by other actors in the region: India, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, Mongolia. This course will provide graduate students with an opportunity to assess this policy qualitatively.

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Course ID: **4219-SG118**  
Course title: ***Problems In the U.S. – Cuban Relations***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Zbigniew Kwiecień***

We will discuss the place and the role of Cuba in the doctrines and practice of American foreign policy throughout the history of their relations. The special character of these contacts will be analyzed, starting from the late 18th century up to the state of political and military confrontation existing between the two nations since 1960's. Memoirs, pamphlets and official publications, mostly American, will provide the basis for discussion.

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Course ID: **4219-SH145**  
Course title: ***New York. The City and Its People***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska***

The course discusses New York City's social history and changes since the 1970s: deindustrialization, fiscal crisis and population drop followed by formation of the yuppie culture and come back to the city, expansion of post-industrial business sectors, mass inflow of the Third World and Eastern European immigrants and gentrification of numerous neighborhoods.

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Course ID: **4219-SH148**  
Course title: ***Guns and Violence in American Society***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Bohdan Szklarski***

The course deals with the role of violence in American society. We study the cultural and historical context of violence known as "gun culture" and move to the study of various types of violence in American society: political assassinations, riots and street protests, school shootings, militia movement, and terrorism. We will also look at the way access to guns is regulated in American law and how interest groups approach the problem of guns in electoral politics (NRA).

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Course ID: **4219-SH169**  
Course title: ***Language as a Political Question. History and the Present Situation***  
Course coordinator: ***Prof. Roman Szul***

The subject of lectures is interdisciplinary. It entails elements of linguistics, political science, sociology, economics, history, geography.

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Course ID: **4219-SH171**  
Course title: ***America Through European Eyes***  
Course coordinator: ***Dr Michał Kuź***

As Alexis de Tocqueville puts it: "only foreigners and experience can bring certain truths to the ears of Americans." The relation is, however, reciprocal. Traveling to North American has

helped many generations of European thinkers and writers better understand phenomena such as mass democracy, capitalism and multiculturalism and describe them well before their full impact became fully felt in the Old Continent. It may be said that the American experience has been a huge laboratory for the European though. On the other hand, the history of transatlantic relations is also filled with stereotypes, questionable assumptions and misunderstandings. The course will be devoted to the history of ideas that developed among Europeans thanks to their journeys to America and to the stereotypes that still inhibit a Fuller understanding of the North America. The authors we will discuss include: G. Berkeley, F. Trollope, A. de Tocqueville, H. Sienkiewicz, J. Bryce, J. Habermas and E. Todd.

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