

AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
WARSAW UNIVERSITY

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW AMERYKAŃSKICH  
UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI

**COURSE CATALOGUE  
MA Program  
Fall 2019 Edition**

## **LECTURES**

W205

### **Hemispheric Lecture: History of International Relations in the Western Hemisphere**

dr Alicja Fijałkowska

During the course, students will be familiarized with the history and current state of the US - Latin American relations. The thematic blocks will explain both the dynamics of these relations over the past decades and current challenges and trends.

## **SECTIONS**

AL102

### **Texts in US Culture II/Texts in Latin American Culture II**

Coordinator: dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

AL103

### **Key Readings in American Studies**

Coordinator: dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

## **INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH PROSEMINARS (H)**

RS220

### **Contemporary American Cinema**

dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

The proseminar provides a thorough survey of contemporary American cinema in the last several decades. Individual meetings will focus on selected genres, styles, and groupings as well as the transformations of the film industry and technological advancements.

RS222

### **Photography in American Literature**

dr hab. Grzegorz Kość

The research proseminal will revolve around the various manifestations of photography's interactions with writing. We will examine how photography influenced seeing and how those new modes of perception made their way into writing of such authors as Theodore Dreiser and Stephen Crane; what does

photography stand for in the fiction of William Faulkner, Raymond Carver, John Updike, and in the poetry of Walt Whitman, Sylvia Plath and Natasha Trethewey. We will look into forms of influence and collaboration between writers and photographers, such as Henry James and Coburn. Sometimes we will examine the work of writers who were also photographers, such as Eudora Welty, or photographers who tried their hand in writing. Finally, we will examine how writers, such as Mark Twain, Ezra Pound or T. S. Eliot, self-consciously promoted themselves and positioned their styles within their cultural fields with the help of photography and portraiture.

RS223

### **Contemporary Jewish American Literature**

dr Karolina Krasuska

This course review the major trends in contemporary Jewish American literature, with a special emphasis on literary works produced by the authors born in the 1970s and 1980s. We will read such authors as Jonathan Safran Foer, Anya Ulinich, Philip Roth, David Bezmozgis, Dara Horn and look how ethnicity and religion, and literature function in the US today. The students will produce a wikibibliography of literary texts from one of the subtrends and will be encouraged to directly contact the authors.

## **INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH PROSEMINARS (S)**

RS225

### **Democracy in America: A Review of Key Topics, Ideas, and Thinkers about Democracy in the US**

dr Hector Calleros Rodriguez

The course is concerned with the meaning of Democracy in the 21st century. Centred on Democracy, the Digital Revolution and the End of Work, this course reviews key topics, ideas and thinkers of American Democracy. The course reviews classic political thinkers and explores the issue connection between democracy and technology as perceptions of this relationship are changing: where once it was predicted that digital technologies would empower citizens and strengthen participation in the democratic process, the U.S. 2016 presidential election prompted questions on how these technologies could harm democracy. In this line, the examination pays attention to the tradition of authoritarian politics in the U.S. The course considers the wider effects of technological changes in society such as the so-called End of Work.

RS226

**Social Movements and Social Change in Contemporary America**

dr Elżbieta Bekiesza-Korolczuk

This research proseminar offers an introduction to social movement theory and methods of research, focusing on the linkages between cultural, political and social spheres. The students will get acquainted with key concepts and theoretical traditions in social movement analysis, as well as basic methods of social movements research. The proseminar is focused as much on content as on research methods and skills, hence each student will have the task of conducting her/his own research project focused on a specific movement. The requirements include doing research on the chosen movement, preparing the presentation and presenting it in front of the class and writing a 15-20 page research paper, as well as other course specific tasks.

RS227

**Social Anthropology in a Transnational World: Global Flows, Local Relations**

dr hab. Kacper Pobłocki

The course will be based on a close reading/watching of three monographs: A Kalahari Family documentary film by John Marshall and two books: Empire of Necessity by Greg Grandin as well as Evicted by Mathew Desmond. The ideas in these core works will be expanded by a set of additional readings, anchored mainly in anthropological research on the Americas. The course comprises of four parts: I - Small Places, Big Questions (on research methods and how to tie micro and the macro, the empirical and the theoretical); II - Atlantic Connections (on how to move beyond methodological nationalism in doing research from a global or trans-national perspective); III - The People Without History (on how to do bottom-up research on oral histories and life trajectories), IV – New Histories of Capitalism (on how to anthropological insights for historical research).

**M.A. SEMINARS**

ZS110

**Aspects of American Literary Culture**

dr hab. Tomasz Basiuk, prof. ucz.

MA seminar devoted to research projects taken up by individual participants in any given cycle.

ZS114

**American Business, Law, Foreign Policy**

dr hab. David Jones, prof. ucz.

This seminar will focus on American business enterprises of any size, American legal system at the Federal, state or local levels, American foreign policy at any period from Statehood in 1789 to the present time.

ZS118

**American Social History**

dr William Glass, prof. ucz.

This seminar is for students who wish to write theses about the themes of race, class, and gender over the course of American history and about certain aspects of popular culture from a historical perspective.

ZS128

**American Audiovisual Culture and Media**

dr hab. Paweł Frelik, prof. ucz.

The seminar will focus on broadly understood audiovisual texts, including such media as film, narrative television series, videogames, music video, digital works, and broadly understood trans- and intermedia texts. Using them as primary texts, possible MA projects will investigate a variety of their aspects: narrative, material, political, and aesthetic.

ZS131

**American Social and Political Thought**

dr Marcin Gajek

MA seminar for students interested in writing a thesis within the field of American social and political thought.

ZS132

**Gender and Sexuality in American Popular Culture**

dr Marta Usiekiewicz

The focus of this MA seminar is on the ways gender and sexuality are present and represented in US popular culture and society. It is suitable for students who want to critically examine the ways in which gender and sexuality affect various aspects of culture. Students who would like to analyze unusual aspects of culture, such as food, fashion, interior design or sports are also welcome. I encourage close reading of texts and intersectional readings.

## **SENIOR RESEARCH LECTURES**

W206

### **US Regions: Toward a Sustainable Future**

dr hab. Bogumiła Lisocka-Jaegermann

The course provides knowledge of the regional geography of the United States allowing understanding of the processes of settlement and management of the US territory and its transformations, with particular focus on the processes taking place in the second half of the twentieth century and the 21st century. The challenges associated with the idea of sustainable development are of particular importance.

W207

### **Contribution of Jews and Jewish Converts to the Birth of the Atlantic World**

prof. dr hab. Henryk Szlajfer

W208

### **Revolutions in American History**

dr hab. Włodzimierz Batóg, prof. ucz.

This course covers the main turning points in American history over the years. Its main objective is to explain and analyse their causes, course and results of events and process affecting and revolutionising the internal and sometimes external situation of the United States. Political, social and cultural proces and phenomena will be discussed.

W209

### **The Unruly Bodies of American Film and Fiction**

dr Agnieszka Kotwasińska

The lecture will examine the different roles and meanings attached to various forms of embodiment in American culture, with a special emphasis on cinema and literature. The body, and especially at its most unruly, transgressive and non-normative, will become a lens through which students will critically assess the highly complex (intra-actions and) intersections between race, gender, class, dis/ability, and technology.

W210

### **Introduction to Literary Theory**

dr hab. Zuzanna Ładyga-Michalska

The lecture is a survey of different approaches to literary theory and criticism. It focuses on contemporary theories which have influenced our reading of and thinking about literature since the beginning of the twentieth century. It familiarizes students with the development of literary theory discourse in its historical and cultural context as well as with the most significant thinkers and concepts of each of the discussed approaches. Apart from this general introduction, each class examines an assigned theoretical text representative for the given approach. The assigned texts and discussed approaches provide students with a variety of tools and techniques of literary criticism.

**W211**

**Photography in the United States**

dr Karolina Lebek

The course offers an overview of American photography in a historical perspective organized thematically. Shortly after its invention in the 1830s, photographic technology was brought to America and served as a means of documentation of the country's vast natural spaces, its growing multicultural nation, of its social problems, as well as of its urban and technological development. The course includes discussions of significant movements, works, figures and institutions that contributed to the creation of the various facets of American photographic iconosphere. Additionally and parallelly, the course encompasses two further issues: 1) essential information on the technical development of photography, that is, the history of its material reality which necessarily influenced photography's role as a medium of visual communication and documentation; 2) the status of photography as an art form and its formal poetics.

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

**D197**

**Topics in African American Culture**

dr Krystyna Mazur

Topics in African American Culture is an interdisciplinary course organized around thematic clusters related to African American history, identity, culture, politics, and to the representations of African Americans in U.S. culture.

**D199**

**After Irony: Public and Private 'Feeling' in Contemporary US Culture**

dr hab. Agnieszka Graff-Osser, prof. ucz.

This course explores the pessimism, discontent, angst, rage and the peculiar sense of confusion and awkwardness present in contemporary American culture. It revolves around concepts that link the todays social and political issues with psychological phenomena: “public feeling”, “neoliberal affect”, “therapy culture”, “emotional outsourcing”, “victimhood culture”. We will explore theory, fiction, essay and film, touching upon texts and issues currently debated in the US.

D200

**Mass Media in the Americas**

dr Alicja Fijałkowska

The course aims to familiarize students with the historical and present specificity of the mass media in the Americas, as well as with current problems and media systems in the Western Hemisphere. The basics of terminology and the main theories of media research will also be presented.

D202

**Psychology of Media: The American Contribution**

dr Alicja Waszkiewicz-Raviv

The goal of the course is to provide the knowledge and understanding of the American contribution in the psychology of media. This scientific field is almost 100 years old but now more than ever its findings and thesis are useful and important part of social life. Theory of representation might be applicable in the social media practice, behaviourism and emotion's theories explains how advertising execute its influence. Media persuasion might be understood through the lances of American scholars fundamental works.

G104

**Interventionism in the History of American Foreign Policy**

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.

H191

**California and Latinx Culture**

dr Grzegorz Welizarowicz

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with a range of phenomena, processes and productions making up the Latinx culture in California. Because California is ushered onto the global scene following the Spanish colonization and later during the Mexican reign the presence of Latinx culture in the state is the fundamental fact which has shaped the identity of the region and which the Anglo era, since the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, has not been able to decenter. Anglo-Saxon reactions to this cultural presence can be variously interpreted - from creative adaptation to blatant negationism and exclusion - they were never however neutral which goes to prove the fact of its lasting and enduring impact.

## **LANGUAGE CLASSES**

**FL201**

### **English – advanced level**

mgr Anna Mejer, dr Dariusz Zembrzuski

Practical language course (C1/C2 level) that aims at developing and improving students' vocabulary and grammar while they gain knowledge about American culture. It focuses on developing language competences, especially professional e-communication, various forms of academic writing, organizing and presenting research.

**FL202**

### **Spanish – advanced level**

dr Paulina Bojarska

The objective of the course is to enable students to improve the ability to communicate and their linguistic competence. The course will further develop both receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing) skills, at the B2.1 level , through lectures, audio lectures, videos, presentations.

**FL204**

### **Spanish – basic level**

dr Luis Miletta Gatzambide

The objective of the course is to enable students to improve the ability to communicate and their linguistic competence. The course will further develop both receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing) skills, at the basic level through lectures, audio lectures, videos, presentations.