

**Course title:** American Literature II

**Course code:** SA0933

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** BA

**Year of study:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 5

**Name of the lecturer:** Odette Blumenfeld

**Course objective:** The aim of the course is to familiarize the students with the plays of some representative American playwrights, by highlighting the American specificity at the level of themes, European influences, techniques and dramatic / theatrical conventions. The students will be able to analyze relevant texts from various critical perspectives and connect these texts to specific social, political and cultural contexts.

**Course contents:** The course will focus on the plays of Eugene O'Neill (the philosophical influence of Nietzsche and Schopenhauer, expressionism, Freudian and Jungian theories), of Arthur Miller (the blending of the psychological with the social, of the personal life with the public life, the importance of autobiographical elements and his views on tragedy), of Tennessee Williams (the image of the American South, the perspective on time, myth as foundation of the dramatic structure), of Edward Albee (the influence of the theatre of the absurd, the levels of ambiguity in the late plays, tragic, non-tragic and anti-tragic solutions) and of Thornton Wilder (Brecht's influence, techniques circumscribed to an excessive theatricalism).

**Recommended reading:** Bigsby, C.W.E., 1984. *A Critical Introduction to Twentieth Century American Drama* (2 volumes). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press ; Floyd, Virginia, 1985. *The Plays of Eugene O'Neill: A New Assessment*. New York: Ungar; Hayman, Ronald, 1993. *Tennessee Williams: Everyone Else Is An Audience*, New Haven: Yale University Press; King, Bruce (ed.), 1991. *Contemporary American Theatre*, Basingstoke: Macmillan; Roudané, Matthew (ed.), 1989. *American Dramatists*, Detroit: Gale

**Teaching methods:** lectures, debates, case studies (literary analyses)

**Assessment methods:** (a) mid-term test (written) and seminar participation (40%) and (b) final test (60%)

**Language of instruction:** English