

**Course title:** Cultural Contact Zones

**Course code:** MSA0815

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** MA

**Year of study:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Semester:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Florin Irimia

**Course objective:** The course starts from the assumption that America is, in the words of Frederick William Grove, "not a country but a continent", though, more often than not, because of the cultural and economic imperialism of the United States, both to the north and south of the border, the synecdochical assimilation of the nation for the entire continent has become almost a truism. Aiming at a change in perception, the course attempts an excursion into the cultural history of North-America seen not from the unilateral perspective of the Center, namely the U.S., but from a postmodern and postcolonial angle belonging to the marginal, that is to the Canadians – the so-called „losers“ in the aftermath of the long battle over cultural and ideological supremacy in North-America.

**Course contents:** The course contains fourteen major topics, one for each week of the semester. The focus will be on the development of critical abilities in students which will learn to enlarge their perspective on North America by including Canada into it.

**Recommended reading:** Atwood, Margaret. *Canadian-American Relations: Surviving the Eighties* in *Second Words: Selected Critical Prose 1962-1982*, Toronto: Anansi, 1982. pp. 371-93; Berton, Pierre. *Why We Act Like Canadians*. Penguin Books Australia Ltd. , 1994; Ferguson, Will. *Why I Hate Canadians*. Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre Ltd., 1997; Frye, Northrop. *Sharing the Continent* in *Divisions on a Ground: Essays on Canadian Culture*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1982; pp.57-70; Grant, George. *In Defence of North America*, in *Technology and Empire: Perspectives on North America*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1969; pp. 15-40; Imbert, Patrick (ed.) *Consensual Disagreement: Canada and the Americas*. University of Ottawa Press, 2005; Lipset, S.M. *Revolution and Counterrevolution: The United States and Canada* in Thomas Ford (ed.) *The Revolutionary Theme in Contemporary America* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1965); Thomas, David (ed.) *Canada and the United States: Differences that Count*. Broadview Press, 2000

**Teaching methods:** interactive lectures

**Assessment methods:** continuous assessment during the semester; final (written) test

**Language of instruction:** English