

Course title: Cultural Contact Zones: Anglophone Canada in a Cross-national Perspective. North American Frontiers, Continua and Extremes

Course code: MSA0825

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: MA

Year of study: 1st

Semester: 2nd

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6

Name of the lecturer: Rodica Albu

Course objective: To re-define the notion of "American" as "North-American", the Canadian space included; to encourage students' critical response to various forms of public and private discourse as cultural products and as forms of cultural mediation; to develop the wish – and ability – to understand the complex US-Canada relations, as well as Canada's relations to other political, geographic and cultural spaces.

Course contents: The course offers a basic introduction to Canadian Studies, with the focus on Canada's complex relations with US and how the two neighbouring countries relate to the world at large. Political borders vs. ethnic, cultural and linguistic continua, as well as specific public policies and personal attitudes will be tackled. Special space is allotted to discussions of the ways in which these relations are reflected in language choices and discourse strategies – in fiction and non-fiction, in official regulations, in the media and in daily life. Immigration issues will be approached from various angles: public policies, official reports on labour force dynamics, sociolinguistic consequences, racial, ethnic and cultural hybridization, shifting identities.

Recommended reading: Albu, Rodica (ed.) *Canada anglofonă. Limbă și identitate*, Iași: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University Publishing House, 2008; Cameron, Elspeth, *Multiculturalism and Immigration in Canada: An Introductory Reader*, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc., 2004; James, Carl E. & Shadd, Adrienne, *Talking about Identity: Encounters in Race, Ethnicity, and Language*, Toronto, ON: Between The Lines, 2001; Kamboureli, Smaro, *Making a Difference. Canadian Multicultural Literatures in English*, Oxford University Press, 2007; Taras, David and Beverly Rasporich (eds.) *A Passion for Identity. Canadian Studies for the 21st Century*, Nelson, 2001

Teaching methods: lectures, workshops, on-line team teaching (with Professor Walter Epp, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Western Ontario), guided individual research using the resources of the Centre for Canadian Studies in Iasi and the Canadian Studies data bank of Lakehead University

Assessment methods: mixed type (continuous assessment, research project, final test)

Language of instruction: English