

**Course title:** Philosophical and Political Thinking: American Transcendentalism

**Course code:** MSA0932

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** MA

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

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

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Codrin Liviu Cuțitaru

**Course objective:** 1. To acquire the culture, literary and philosophical concepts connected to the American Transcendentalism; 2. to understand the connection between American Transcendentalism and the specificity of American history; 3. to develop the knowledge on Romanticism-Transcendentalism in America.

**Course contents:** Introduction to the traditional American Culture (Puritanism, the Revolution, the Civil War); Transcendentalism – general presentation (the specificity of American Romanticism); the foundations of Transcendentalism (Emerson: *Nature*); Intellectual Transcendentalism (Emerson's essays); Activist Transcendentalism (Thoreau's essays and *Walden*); The relationship between Emerson and Thoreau (and American *paideia*); Poetic Transcendentalism (Walt Whitman); Interactions with other trends – Pragmatism (a general view); Conclusions: foundations for an American philosophic system.

Recommended reading: *Finding Freedom*. J.H.McElroy. Illinois UP, Chicago, 1991; *The Norton Anthology of American Civilisation*. Ed.J.Pope. Norton Comp., NY, 1992; *The History of America*. Ed. E.Dryden.Arizona UP, Tucson, 1994; *The Making of America*. Ed.Ivonne Bryant. UP of America, NY, 1981; *Essays*. Ralph Waldo Emerson. HBJ, NY, 1985; *Walden*. Henry David Thoreau. Free Press, Washington, 1990; *Leaves of Grass*. Walt Whitman. Penguin Books, NY, 1982

**Teaching methods:** lecture, discussions

**Assessment methods:** written exam, essay

**Language of instruction:** English