

Course title: Regionalism: The West of the Imagination

Course code: MSA0944

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: MA

Year of study: 2nd

Semester: 4th

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6

Name of the lecturer: Irina Chirica

Course objective: The course, held in English, is meant to familiarize the M.A. students with the significance of the West and the frontier in the construction of American cultural identity. The course explores American history, literature and the visual arts in order to understand the ways in which the West is understood and represented, and its significance in American culture.

Course contents: The course informs the students about the significance of the West and the importance of concepts such as "the frontier" or "manifest destiny" in American culture, through a regionalist and cultural history approach. Special stress is given to the reflection of the West in the visual arts (painting, photography and the cinema – the emergence of the western genre and its significance for American national identity). For tests, students shall make use of information acquired during lectures, as well as of data extracted from recommended bibliography.

Recommended reading: Goetzmann William, 1989. *The West of the Imagination*. New York: Norton&Comp; Kitses Jim, 2004. *Horizons West*. London: Cromwell Press; Smith Henry Nash, 1980. *Virgin Land – The American West as Symbol and Myth*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press; Slotkin, Richard, 1992. *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth-Century America*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992; White, Richard, 1991. *A New History of the American West*. Norman: Oklahoma UP

Teaching methods: lectures, workshops

Assessment methods: home essays; final (written) test

Language of instruction: English