Academic course description

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| BACHELOR ’S PROGRAMME  **AMERICAN STUDIES**  3rd YEAR OF STUDY, 2nd SEMESTER |

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| **Course title** | | **AMERICAN POSTMODERNISM, TRANSCULTURALISM AND THE EMERGING FIELD OF INTER-AMERICAN STUDIES** |
| Course code | | SA2161 (American Studies) |
| Course type | | full attendance |
| Course level | | 1st cycle (bachelor’s degree) |
| Year of study, semester | | 3rd year of study, 1st semester |
| Number of ECTS credits | | 5 |
| Number of hours per week | | 4 (2 lecture hours + 2 seminar hours) |
| Name of lecture holder | | Dana BADULESCU |
| Name of seminar holder | | Lorelei CARAMAN |
| Prerequisites | | B2 (and above) level of English |
| A | **General and course-specific competences** | |
|  | **General competences**:   * Familiarise students with the contemporary paradigms of postmodernism, transculturalism and a new emerging field – the Inter-American Studies, as well as enhancing their aesthetic and cultural awareness of postmodernism as a new shift in sensibility in a complex relation with modernism, and transculturalism and transnationalism as a new cultural situation (characterised by hybridity, diasporic identity, divided and problematic loyalty etc.)   **Course-specific competences**:   * Signal the advent of postmodernism as a shift in sensibility, together with transculturalism, which is a new condition at the level of the individual and society in the global world * Present and discuss the cultural context of postmodernism in the US, which is its hotbed and epicentre * Present and discuss the characteristic features of postmodernism in the US (cf. Ihab Hassan’s table of schematic differences from modernism in “Toward a Concept of Postmodernism”) * Present and discuss major features of transculturalism and transnationalism: the global village, migration, hybridity, contact zones, heterotopia, liquid modernity, diaspora * Present and discuss the new emerging field of Inter-American Studies * Critically read postmodernist texts using customised tools | |
| B | **Learning outcomes** | |
|  | * Recognise and describe features of postmodernism and transculturalism * Discuss the aesthetic and cultural value of postmodernism in the US * Analyse major themes in postmodernist literature | |
| C | **Lecture content** | |
|  | Introduction: The contemporary landscape (dislocation, deterritorialization, cross-cultural acculturation, flexible citizenship, neonomadism, **transculturalism**); Watch <https://www.ted.com/talks/pico_iyer_where_is_home?language=en> (Pico Iyer ”Where Is Home” 14:02) OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bmq6M9yh_g> (Pico Iyer ”Searching for Home/Self in a Fast-Moving World” 1:25:32)  Ihab Hassan’s Approach to postmodernism  What is transculturalism? What is transnationalism?  Migration and diaspora  Arjun Appadurai’s approaches to globalization  Approaches to hybridity  Contact zones and frontier cultures Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_F_jl3BE-k> (Sherman Alexie on Living Outside Borders 39:18); Read fragments from Gloria Anzaldua’s *Borderlands/La Frontera*  A new emerging field: diaspora studies  A new emerging field: inter-American studies; The language problem in inter-American studies  Revising notions and concepts from an inter-American perspective; Revising the canons from an inter-American perspective  Inter-American novel, film, poetry and music; The ”Inter-American Novel” as a new literary genre; Representatives of the Inter-American Novel  Wind-up: postmodernism, transculturalism, transnationalism, diaspora studies and Inter-American studies as new approaches to contemporary aesthetics and cultures | |
| D | **Recommended reading for lectures** | |
|  | Appadurai, Arjun (1996), *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization,* University of Minnesota Press.  Bhaba, Homi (1994), *The Location of Culture*, London; New York: Routledge.  Cuccioletta, Donald. “Multiculturalism or Transculturalism: Towards a Cosmopolitan Citizenship” in *London Journal of Canadian Studies*, 2001/2002, Vol. 17  Fitz, Earl E., (1991*), Rediscovering the Americas: Inter-American Literature in a*  *Comparative Context*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.  Fitz, Earl E., (1998) *Inter-American Literature and Criticism: An Electronic Annotated*  *Bibliography*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.  Hall, Stuart, (1991) “The Local and the Global: Globalization and Ethnicity*”* in *Culture, Globalization and the World System*. Ed. Anthony D. King. Binghamton: State University of New York at Binghamton Press, 19-39.  Scott, Nina, (2004) *Inter-American Literature: An Antidote to the Arrogance of Culture*. College English. | |
| E | **Seminar content** | |
|  | Reading and discussing texts emblematic for and illustrative of postmodernism, transculturalism and Inter-American Studies | |
| F | **Recommended reading for seminars** | |
|  | Arianna Dagnino – “Transcultural Writers”  Gloria Anzaldua – “La conciencia de la mestiza. Towards a New Consciousness”. From *Borderland/La Frontera*.  Gloria Anzaldua – “Speaking in Tongues”. From *The Gloria Anzaldua Reader.*  Sandra Cisneros – “The House on Mango Street”  Sandra Cisneros – Selection of poems  Kimiko Hahn – Selection of poems  Naomi Shihab Nye – Selection of poems  Li-Young Lee – Selection of poems | |
| G | **Education style** | |
| learning and teaching methods | | Lecture, discussion (group works), seminar presentations |
| assessment methods | | Final written exam 60% + seminar paper 40% |
| Language of instruction | | English |