Academic course description

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| BACHELOR ’S PROGRAMME**AMERICAN STUDIES**3rd YEAR OF STUDY, 1st SEMESTER |

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| **Course title** | **ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY: The American Dream** |
| Course code | SA1926A |
| Course type | full attendance |
| Course level | 1st cycle (bachelor’s degree) |
| Year of study, semester | 3rdt year of study, 1st semester |
| Number of ECTS credits | 6 |
| Number of hours per week | 3 (2 lecture hours + 1 seminar hour) |
| Name of lecture holder | FLORIN IRIMIA |
| Name of seminar holder | FLORIN IRIMIA |
| Prerequisites | B2 level of English  |
| A | **General and course-specific competences** |
|  | **General competences**:* Getting the students familiar with the United States from a political, historical and cultural point of view, in order to understand the way the American Dream society functions

**Course-specific competences**:* Understand the American society of the late 19th and the 20th century;
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| B | **Learning outcomes** |
|  | * Explain the formation of the mythology behind the concept as well as some of the fundamental directions one can pursue in order to achieve it;
* Apply in unfamiliar contexts some of the key directions belonging to the concept;
* Analyse literary and non-literary texts from an American Dream perspective;
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| C | **Lecture content** |
|  | Introduction: Meet the Inventor: James Truslow Adams and *The Epic of America* (1931);The Forbearers: The Puritan Vision and the American Dream;The Founding Fathers and the American Revolution: Putting the Dream into the Declaration of Independence;Upward Mobility: The hopeful and the restless American;The (Perpetual) Quest for Equality;Instant Gratification: getting something for nothing;“Go west, young man!” : The Dream of home ownership; |
| D | **Recommended reading for lectures** |
|  | Adams, James Truslow. The Epic of America. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1959;Cullen, Jim. The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea that Shaped a Nation. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003;Samuel, R. Lawrence. The American Dream: a Cultural History. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2012; |
| E | **Seminar content** |
|  | The American Dream along the Decades: Reading and discussing literary and non-literary texts and contemporary cultural practices from the American Dream perspective; |
| F | **Recommended reading for seminars** |
|  | Brands, H. W. American Dreams: The United States Since 1945. New York: The Penguin Press, 2010;Jillson, Cal. Pursuing the American Dream: Opportunity and Exclusion Over Four Centuries. Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2004;Samuelson, J. Robert. The Good Life and Its Discontents: The American Dream in the Age of Entitlement. New York: Random House, 1995; |
| G | **Education style** |
| learning and teaching methods | Lecture, discussion |
| assessment methods | Final written exam 60% + seminar paper 40% |
| Language of instruction | English |