

BACHELOR 'S PROGRAMME  
**AMERICAN STUDIES**  
 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF STUDY, 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	<b>AMERICAN POSTMODERNISM, TRANSCULTURALISM AND THE EMERGING FIELD OF INTER-AMERICAN STUDIES</b>
COURSE CODE	SA2161 (American Studies)
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	1st cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	<b>GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES</b>
	<p><b>General competences:</b></p> <p>→ 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.)</p> <p><b>Course-specific competences:</b></p> <p>→ 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</p> <p>→ Present and discuss the cultural context of postmodernism in the US, which is its hotbed and epicentre</p> <p>→ 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")</p> <p>→ Present and discuss major features of transculturalism and transnationalism: the global village, migration, hybridity, contact zones, heterotopia, liquid modernity, diaspora</p> <p>→ Present and discuss the new emerging field of Inter-American Studies</p> <p>→ Critically read postmodernist texts using customised tools</p>
B	<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>
	<p>→ Recognise and describe features of postmodernism and transculturalism</p> <p>→ Discuss the aesthetic and cultural value of postmodernism in the US</p> <p>→ Analyse major themes in postmodernist literature</p>
C	<b>LECTURE CONTENT</b>
	<p>Introduction: The contemporary landscape (dislocation, deterritorialization, cross-cultural acculturation, flexible citizenship, neonomadism, <b>transculturalism</b>); Watch <a href="https://www.ted.com/talks/pico_iyer_where_is_home?language=en">https://www.ted.com/talks/pico_iyer_where_is_home?language=en</a> (Pico Iyer "Where Is</p>

	<p>Home” 14:02) OR <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bmq6M9yh_g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bmq6M9yh_g</a> (Pico Iyer ”Searching for Home/Self in a Fast-Moving World” 1:25:32)</p> <p>Ihab Hassan’s Approach to postmodernism</p> <p>What is transculturalism? What is transnationalism?</p> <p>Migration and diaspora</p> <p>Arjun Appadurai’s approaches to globalization</p> <p>Approaches to hybridity</p> <p>Contact zones and frontier cultures Watch <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_F_jl3BE-k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_F_jl3BE-k</a> (Sherman Alexie on Living Outside Borders 39:18); Read fragments from Gloria Anzaldua’s <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i></p> <p>A new emerging field: diaspora studies</p> <p>A new emerging field: inter-American studies; The language problem in inter-American studies</p> <p>Revising notions and concepts from an inter-American perspective; Revising the canons from an inter-American perspective</p> <p>Inter-American novel, film, poetry and music; The ”Inter-American Novel” as a new literary genre; Representatives of the Inter-American Novel</p> <p>Wind-up: postmodernism, transculturalism, transnationalism, diaspora studies and Inter-American studies as new approaches to contemporary aesthetics and cultures</p>
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	<p>Appadurai, Arjun (1996), <i>Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization</i>, University of Minnesota Press.</p> <p>Bhaba, Homi (1994), <i>The Location of Culture</i>, London; New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Cuccioletta, Donald. “Multiculturalism or Transculturalism: Towards a Cosmopolitan Citizenship” in <i>London Journal of Canadian Studies</i>, 2001/2002, Vol. 17</p> <p>Fitz, Earl E., (1991), <i>Rediscovering the Americas: Inter-American Literature in a Comparative Context</i>. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.</p> <p>Fitz, Earl E., (1998) <i>Inter-American Literature and Criticism: An Electronic Annotated Bibliography</i>. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.</p> <p>Hall, Stuart, (1991) “The Local and the Global: Globalization and Ethnicity” in <i>Culture, Globalization and the World System</i>. Ed. Anthony D. King. Binghamton: State University of New York at Binghamton Press, 19-39.</p> <p>Scott, Nina, (2004) <i>Inter-American Literature: An Antidote to the Arrogance of Culture</i>. College English.</p>
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	<p>Reading and discussing texts emblematic for and illustrative of postmodernism, transculturalism and Inter-American Studies</p>
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	<p>Arianna Dagnino – “Transcultural Writers”</p> <p>Gloria Anzaldua – “La conciencia de la mestiza. Towards a New Consciousness”. From <i>Borderland/La Frontera</i>.</p> <p>Gloria Anzaldua – “Speaking in Tongues”. From <i>The Gloria Anzaldua Reader</i>.</p> <p>Sandra Cisneros – “The House on Mango Street”</p> <p>Sandra Cisneros – Selection of poems</p> <p>Kimiko Hahn – Selection of poems</p> <p>Naomi Shihab Nye – Selection of poems</p> <p>Li-Young Lee – Selection of poems</p>

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