

BACHELOR 'S PROGRAMME
AMERICAN STUDIES
 1ST YEAR OF STUDY, 1ST SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES
COURSE CODE	SA1911
COURSE TYPE	full attendance/ tutorial
COURSE LEVEL	1 nd cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	1 st year of study, 1 st semester
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	6
NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	4 (2 lecture hours + 2 seminar hours)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Irina Chirica
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Irina Chirica
PREREQUISITES	Advanced level of English
A	GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES
	<p>General competences:</p> <p>→ The development of the ability to apply fundamental knowledge in the area of cultural studies and general interdisciplinary principles.</p> <p>Course-specific competences:</p> <p>→ Contextual approach to multidisciplinary notions and methods in cultural studies. Description and presentation of fundamental concepts, theories and methods and of they way in which they apply to various cultural phenomena.</p>
B	LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>→ Theoretical knowledge of methods, concepts, approaches.</p> <p>→ Knowledge of fudamental trends and domains of American culture.</p> <p>→ Knowledge of key moments and events and the ability to put them on a map and integrate them in a model of interpretation.</p>
C	LECTURE CONTENT
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Introduction. What are cultural studies/ 02. American cultural identity. Fundamental myths. 03. Waves and Peaks of Immigration. 04. Ethnicity. The Melting Pot. Cultural Pluralism. 05. The importance of Race in American Culture. African Americans part 1 06. African Americans part 2 07. Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans. 08. Native Americans 09. Youth Culture and Counterculture 10. Gender and sexuality in the U.S. 11. Regionalism. The American West as a cultural area. 12. The American South 13. Comsumerism. New History. Postmodern interpretations. 14. Religion in America.....
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	<p>Barker Chris, Emma A. Jane, Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice, SAGE Publications, 5 edition, 2016</p> <p>Burgett, Bruce and Glenn Hendler, Keywords for American Cultural Studies, NYU Press, 2014.</p> <p>Chirica, Irina, America, The Portrait of a Civilization, Timpul, Iași, 1999.</p> <p>Campbell, Neil and Alasdair Kean, American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture, Routledge, 4th edition, 2016.</p> <p>Mihăilă, Rodica, The American Challenge, University of Bucharest Press, 1994.</p> <p>Temperly, Bradbury, Bigsby eds. New Introduction to American Studies, Longman, 2006.</p>
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. What is unique about the American character. Anzia Yesierska, <i>America and I</i> 02. The American character and the American Revolution. Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>My Kinsman Major</i>

	<p><i>Molineux.</i></p> <p>03. Discussion of documentary fragments about Ellis Island and immigration. Abraham Cahan, <i>The Meeting.</i></p> <p>04. Alice Walker: <i>The Flowers</i></p> <p>05. Slave Narratives. <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.</i></p> <p>06. The Civil Rights movement.</p> <p>07. Amy Tan: <i>Two Kinds</i></p> <p>08. Leslie Marmon Silko, <i>The Man to Bring Rain Clouds.</i></p> <p>09. The invention of teenagers. Trace Embry, <i>America's Youth Culture Manifesto</i></p> <p>10. California as a cultural area: Beach Culture, Hollywood, Silicon Valley, Gay Culture.</p> <p>11. William Steinbeck, <i>The Pastures of Heaven.</i></p> <p>12. William Faulkner and the South. <i>A Rose for Emily.</i></p> <p>13. The Cowboy in American Culture. Steven Crane, <i>The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky.</i></p> <p>14. Preparation for the final exam.</p>
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	<p>Campbell, Neil and Alasdair Kean, <i>American Cultural Studies: An Introduction to American Culture</i>, Routledge, 4th edition, 2016.</p> <p>Chirica, Irina, <i>America, the Portrait of a Civilization</i>, Timpul, Iași, 1999.</p> <p>A package of class materials with excerpts from multiple sources, prepared by the teacher for class discussion.</p>
G	EDUCATION STYLE
LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS	Lecture attendance and text discussions
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Midterm exam and final exam
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English