

BACHELOR 'S PROGRAMME
AMERICAN STUDIES
 3RD YEAR OF STUDY, 1ST SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY: THE AMERICAN DREAM
COURSE CODE	SA2253
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	1st cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	3rd ^d year of study, 1 st 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
	<p>General competences:</p> <p>→ 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</p> <p>Course-specific competences:</p> <p>→ Understand the American society of the late 19th and the 20th century;</p>
B	LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>→ 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;</p> <p>→ Apply in unfamiliar contexts some of the key directions belonging to the concept;</p> <p>→ Analyse literary and non-literary texts from an American Dream perspective;</p>
C	LECTURE CONTENT
	<p>Introduction: Meet the Inventor: James Truslow Adams and <i>The Epic of America</i> (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;</p>
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	<p>Adams, James Truslow. <i>The Epic of America</i>. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1959; Cullen, Jim. <i>The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea that Shaped a Nation</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003; Samuel, R. Lawrence. <i>The American Dream: a Cultural History</i>. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2012;</p>
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	<p>The American Dream along the Decades: Reading and discussing literary and non-literary texts and contemporary cultural practices from the American Dream perspective;</p>
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	<p>Brands, H. W. <i>American Dreams: The United States Since 1945</i>. New York: The Penguin Press, 2010; Jillson, Cal. <i>Pursuing the American Dream: Opportunity and Exclusion Over Four Centuries</i>. Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2004; Samuelson, J. Robert. <i>The Good Life and Its Discontents: The American Dream in the Age of Entitlement</i>. New York: Random House, 1995;</p>
G	EDUCATION STYLE

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS	Lecture, discussion
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Final written exam 60% + seminar paper 40%
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English