

Course title: Multicultural Perspectives: Ethnicity

Course code: MSA0812

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: MA

Year of study: 1st

Semester: 1st

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6

Name of the lecturer: Irina Chirica

Course objective: The course, held in English, is meant to familiarize graduate students with information from the domain of American Cultural Studies, with a focus on multicultural history and ethnic literatures. We make use of postmodern theories referring to ethnicity and multiculturalism, and discuss American reality on the wider arena of globalism. The lecturer uses an interactive methodology, which allows students to ask questions and come up with their own comments and pieces of knowledge during lectures.

Course contents: The course dwells on the multicultural characteristics of American culture in the context of various immigration patterns (waves and peaks of immigration). In the first semester, we focus on the history and culture (literature, art, historical contributions) of the African American ethnicity, which is the most numerous and the most productive one in America. For tests, students shall make use of information acquired during lectures, as well as of data extracted from recommended bibliography.

Recommended reading: Barth, F., 1969. *Ethnic groups and boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co; Bataille, Gretchen, Miguel Carranza and Laurie Lisa, 1996. *Ethnic Studies in the United States*. New York: Garland; Miller, Lynda, 1994. *Teaching Cultural Diversity*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press; Takaki, Ronald, 1998. *A Larger Memory: a History of Our Diversity with Voices*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co; Sollars Werner, 1996. *Theories of Ethnicity: A classical reader*. New York University Press

Teaching methods: lectures, workshops

Assessment methods: home essays; final (written) test

Language of instruction: English