

BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME  
**AMERICAN STUDIES**  
 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF STUDY, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	<b>AMERICAN LITERATURE 2: REALISM AND NATURALISM</b>
COURSE CODE	SA2034
COURSE TYPE	full attendance/tutorial
COURSE LEVEL	1 <sup>st</sup> cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of study, 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	5
NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	3 (2 lecture hours + 1 seminar hours)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Conf. Univ. Dr. Iulia Milica
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Conf. Univ. Dr. Iulia Milica
PREREQUISITES	Advanced level of English
<b>A</b>	<b>GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES</b>
	<p><b>General competences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ to be able to understand and operate with a series of theoretical concepts within the frame of American literature in the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century (realism, naturalism, regionalism, local color, etc.);</li> <li>→ to be able to connect historical, social and economic contexts with literary developments and explain how the literature of the period mirrors the main problems and dilemmas of the American society of that time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Course-specific competences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ to understand the theoretical frame of realism as a literary movement and its branches in American literature (regionalism, local color, naturalism);</li> <li>→ to understand the specificity of American Realism and Naturalism with reference to the same literary movements in Europe;</li> <li>→ to be acquainted with the main historical moments, social and economic transformations in the United States of America in the second half of the nineteenth century in order to contextualize the cultural / literary developments.</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ At the end of the course the students will be able to explain the literary concepts and analyze them in the literature studied.</li> <li>→ At the end of the course, the students will be able to connect the main literary developments with the historical, social and economical transformations of the period.</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	<b>LECTURE CONTENT</b>
	<p>LECTURE 1: Introductory lecture.</p> <p>LECTURE 2: Historical background – the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: main historical events, economic and social changes and their influence on literature.</p> <p>LECTURE 3: The evolution of American literature up to the Civil War (brief overview) - the passage from colonial literature to a national (American) literature; the passage from Romanticism to Realism.</p> <p>LECTURE 4: Realism: definition(s), traits, precursors, representatives; the relationship between American Realism and European Realism; the relationship between the realistic novel and the romance.</p> <p>LECTURE 5: William Dean Howells: the "Dean" of American Realism – tracing the main features of realism in the United States and breaking with a romantic past</p> <p>LECTURE 6: Mark Twain: realism, journalism, humor, the art of story-telling.</p> <p>LECTURE 7: Henry James: the "Master" of American Literature- narrative perspective and the path towards modernism, the international theme.</p> <p>LECTURE 8: Realism and the Gothic. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i>.</p> <p>LECTURE 9: American Regionalism: definitions, delineations (<i>regionalism, local color, sectionalism</i>), regional specificities: the South, the West, the Northwest, New England.</p> <p>LECTURE 10: Ethnic voices and feminine identities.</p> <p>LECTURE 11: Narratives of the countryside and narratives of the city / the Progressive movement and</p>

	<p>the Muckrakers.</p> <p>LECTURE 12: Representing the Civil War: Ambrose Bierce: <i>Chicamauga</i>.</p> <p>LECTURE 13: Naturalism: definitions, representatives, distinctions between the European Naturalism and naturalism in America; Frank Norris.</p> <p>LECTURE 14: Jack London – naturalism, natural selection, the confrontation between man and nature; Stephen Crane – journalism and literature.</p>
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	<p>Conn, Brian, <i>O Istorie a literaturii americane</i>, Editura Univers, Bucuresti, 1996.</p> <p>Doren, Carl van, <i>The American Novel, 1789-1939</i>, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1940.</p> <p>Gray, Richard, <i>A History of American Literature</i>, Balckwell Publishing, 2004.</p> <p>High, Peter, <i>An Outline of American Literature</i>, Longman, 1986.</p> <p>Pizer, Donald, <i>The Cambridge Companion to American Realism and Naturalism</i>, Cambridge University Press, 1995.</p>
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	<p>SEMINAR 1: American Realism vs. the American romance tradition: Richard Chase: <i>The American Novel and Its Tradition</i> (Chapter 1).</p> <p>SEMINAR 2: William Dean Howells: <i>Editha</i> – the connection between Howells' theoretical views and literary outputs.</p> <p>SEMINAR 3: Henry James: <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>: structure and narrative perspective.</p> <p>SEMINAR 4: Regional voices: the South - Thomas Nelson Page's <i>Ole 'Stracted</i>, and the West - Bret Harte's <i>The Luck of Roaring Camp</i>.</p> <p>SEMINAR 5: Gender and Ethnicity – Realism, Regionalism and emerging female writers. Sui Sin Far's <i>Its Wavering Image</i>, Zitkala Sa's <i>The Trial Path</i> and Alice Dunbar Nelson's <i>Sister Josepha</i>.</p> <p>SEMINAR 6: The countryside: Mary Wilkins Freeman's <i>A New England Nun</i> and Hamlin Garland's <i>A Day's Pleasure</i>.</p> <p>SEMINAR 7: American naturalism: Jack London's <i>The Law of Life</i> and Stephen Crane's <i>The Snake</i>.</p>
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	<p>Literary texts and theoretical readings will be provided during the first seminar.</p> <p>Campbell, Dona, "The Rise of Naturalism" in <i>The Cambridge History of the American Novel</i>. Eds. Leonard Cassuto, Clare Virginia Eby and Benjamin Reiss. Cambridge University Press, 2011.</p> <p>Garland, Hamlin, "Local Color in Art" in <i>Crumbling Idols</i>, <a href="https://archive.org/details/crumblingidols009340mbp/page/n2">https://archive.org/details/crumblingidols009340mbp/page/n2</a>.</p> <p>James, Henry, "The Art of Fiction".. <a href="http://virgil.org/dswo/courses/novel/james-fiction.pdf">http://virgil.org/dswo/courses/novel/james-fiction.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Glazener, Nancy, "The Practice and Promotion of American Literary Realsim" in <i>A Companion to American Fiction 1865-1914</i>, edited by Robert Paul Lamb, G. R. Thompson, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.</p> <p>Chase, Richard, <i>The American Novel and Its Tradition</i>, Chapter 1: <i>The Broken Circuit</i>, G. Bell and Sons Ltd., London, 1957.</p>
G	EDUCATION STYLE
LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS	Presentations, discussions, group work.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	<p>1. participation in class is evaluated with 20% of the final grade. It includes presentations, active participation in seminar discussions, written homework;</p> <p>3. final exam - 80 %.</p>
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English and Romanian.