

ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTION

MASTER 'S PROGRAMME
AMERICAN STUDIES
 2ND YEAR OF STUDY, 1ST SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	CRITICAL THINKING, LITERARY THINKING
COURSE CODE	
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	2nd cycle (master's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	2st year of study, 1st semester
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	5
NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	3 (2 lecture hours + 1 seminar hours)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Dana BADULESCU
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Dana BADULESCU
PREREQUISITES	C1 (and above) level of English
A	GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES
	<p>General competences:</p> <p>→ Familiarise students with literary and cultural approaches, literary and cultural theory and terminology</p> <p>Course-specific competences:</p> <p>→ Trace the connection between literary and critical thinking in the U.S. from E. A. Poe to the present day</p> <p>→ Present and discuss the main stages of this connection</p> <p>→ Critically read literary texts and analyse cultural and media products (films) in the light of the approaches discussed</p>
B	LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>→ Recognise and describe the connection between critical thinking and literary thinking</p> <p>→ Discuss the variety of literary approaches</p> <p>→ Apply the literary and cultural approaches discussed to literary texts and cultural and media products (films)</p>
C	LECTURE CONTENT
	<p>What are critical thinking and literary thinking, respectively? How can they be approached together in order to account for the principles and mechanisms of each « individual talent »'s creativity ?</p> <p>E. A. Poe's literary thinking and critical thinking; Poe as a poet-critic of the 19th century America, shaping the critical and literary thinking of three generations of French poets (Baudelaire, Mallarmé and Valéry) spanning a century of French poetry</p> <p>Henry James's literary theory and criticism; James as a self-conscious novelist with a clear agenda</p>

	<p>T. S. Eliot the poet-critic and new criticism</p> <p>Northrop Frye and archetypal criticism</p> <p>Contemporary critics: Harold Bloom and “the anxiety of influence”</p> <p>Edward Hirsch the poet-critic</p> <p>Jean Baudrillard’s theory of simulacra and hyperreality applied to the American postmodern culture (literature and film) illustrated by Don DeLillo’s <i>White Noise</i> (novel), <i>The Truman Show</i> (film) and <i>Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind</i> (film)</p> <p>Umberto Eco and America’s hyperrealism in <i>Travels in Hyperreality</i></p>
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	<p>Baudrillard, Jean. <i>Selected Writings</i>, Stanford University Press: Stanford, California, 2001.</p> <p>Kevin, J. Hayes. <i>The Cambridge Companion to Edgar Allen Poe</i>, CUP, 2004. (“The Poet as Critic”: pp. 7-21 and “Poe’s Aesthetic Theory”: pp. 42-57)</p> <p>Bloom, Harold. <i>The Anxiety of Influence: A Theory of Poetry</i>, Oxford University Press, 1997.</p> <p>Malpas, Simon & Paul Wake (Editors). <i>The Routledge Companion to Critical and Cultural Theory</i>, Routledge, 2013.</p> <p>Mendelssohn, Michèle. <i>Henry James, Oscar Wilde and Aesthetic Culture</i>, Edinburgh University Press, 2007. (Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 22-89)</p> <p>Newton, K. M., <i>Interpreting the Text: A Critical Introduction to the Theory and Parctice of Literary Interpretation</i>, St. Martin’s Press, 1990</p> <p>Rawlings, Peter. <i>American Theorists of the Novel: Henry James, Lionel Trilling, Wayne C. Booth</i>, Routledge, London and New York, 2007.</p> <p>http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/</p>
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	Reading and discussing literary and cultural theory in connection with literature and film
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	<p>Virginia Woolf, “How Should one Read a Book?”</p> <p>E. A. Poe, “The Poetic Principle”</p> <p>Henry James’ “unreadable text” in <i>The Turn of the Screw</i></p> <p>T. S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent”</p> <p>Edward Hirsch, <i>How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry</i></p> <p>Jean Baudrillard, “Simulacra and Simulations” and chapter 1 of Umberto Eco’s <i>Travels in Hyperreality</i></p>
G	EDUCATION STYLE
LEARNING AND TEACHING	Lecture, discussion (group works), seminar presentations

METHODS	
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Final written exam or essay 60% + seminar paper 40%
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English