

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

COURSE TITLE	<b>ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY: THE AMERICAN DREAM</b>
COURSE CODE	SA1926A
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	1st cycle (bachelor's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	3 <sup>rd</sup> year of study, 1 <sup>st</sup> 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
<b>A</b>	<b>GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES</b>
	<p><b>General competences:</b></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><b>Course-specific competences:</b></p> <p>→ Understand the American society of the late 19th and the 20th century;</p>
<b>B</b>	<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>
	<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>
<b>C</b>	<b>LECTURE CONTENT</b>
	<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>
<b>D</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES</b>
	<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>
<b>E</b>	<b>SEMINAR CONTENT</b>
	<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>
<b>F</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS</b>
	<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>
<b>G</b>	<b>EDUCATION STYLE</b>

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