American Literature II Summer Term Instructor: doc. PaedDr. J. Javorčíková, PhD.

# **AMERICAN LITERATURE II AMERICAN LITERATURE II Pdf/KAJL/MANGde007/16 PS**

# **(from Cooper to Cunningham)**

Doc. PaedDr. Jana Javorčíková, PhD. **Office hours:** TBS, make an appointment

Credits: 3 **E-mail:** jana.javorcikova@umb.sk

last day of school: December 3, 2020 **Classes:** Tuesday

**Web-page:** [**http://www.ff.umb.sk/jjavorcikova/2016-ba-american-literature-ii.html**](http://www.ff.umb.sk/jjavorcikova/2016-ba-american-literature-ii.html)

**Course Description**

This course focuses on reading, analyses and interpretations of selected works of American literature, which could be considered as symptomatic for the *Zeitgeist*. During the course, students will learn about a cultural context of the works as well as get familiar with the important writing tendencies.

**Course Activities:** Reading and analyses of literary works, discussions on cultural context, authors, themes, characters, narrators, narrative style, etc.

**Goals of the Course**

* To raise students´ familiarity with modern American literature, To familiarize students with artistic and cultural movements
* To help students define central themes of literature, to make students pay attention to the most important differences in expression.

**The course is 90% compatible with State Exam requirements (10% is to be completed on your own):**

1. **Transcendentalism (H.D. Thoreau, R. W. Emerson)**
2. **Specifics of American romanticism in poetry (E.A. Poe, W. Whitman, E. Dickinson)**
3. **Specifics of American romanticism in prose (E.A. Poe, H. Melville, T. Paine)**
4. The Gilded Age, Local colorists (B. Harte, M. Twain, T. Paine)
5. Naturalism (T. Dreiser, S. Crane)
6. Psychological Realism (H. James)
7. Lost Generation/Modernism (Hemingway, Stein)
8. 20s, 30s (Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Miller)
9. WW2, Postwar Fiction (Bellow, Salinger, Nabokov, Styron, Heller)
10. Modernism vs. Postmodernism, Black American Writers (Faulkner vs. Morrison)
11. Postmodernist Prose (Sontag, Auster, DeLillo)
12. Short Story (Poe, Hawthorne, James, Hemingway, Welty, Sontag)
13. Drama (O´Neil, T. Williams, A. Miller, E. Albee, S. Shepard)

**Assessment (oral exam OR test, date: during the exam period, TBS):** Oral exam   (10-point written quizz covering the whole study load, oral exam  where you provide literary, social and historical context; critical acclaim and detailed analysis of the slected author/movement/literary trend, etc.), time:  20-40´.

**Compulsory reading list:All texts distributed in lectures and seminars (handouts)**

**CB1: (THEORY) Javorčíková, J. 2017. A Compendium of American Literature. Bratislava : Z-F, pp. 42-96.**

**CB2: VIETOROVÁ, N. *Extracts from American Fiction of the 20th ct.*  Bratislava, 2004.**

**Complete list of Compulsory reading (see 1-9 bellow)**

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1. I take for granted you have read these novels or saw the films: Mark Twain: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (a novel, film); James Fenimore Cooper: The Last of the Mohicans (a film, preferably the version starring Daniel Day Lewis)
2. Jack London: To Build a Fire (a short story)
3. T. S. Eliot: The Waste Land (a long poem)
4. E. Hemingway: Soldier´s Home, The Old Man and the Sea (short stories, novelette)
5. Toni Morisson: The Bluest Eye (a novel)
6. Joseph Heller: Catch XX (a nove, min. 5 chaptersl)
7. Ami Tan: The Joy Lucky Club (a novel, if possible, watch also the film)
8. Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman (a play, if possible, watch the version starring Dustin Hoffmann)
9. Michael Cunningham: The Hours (if possible, watch the film as well)
10. And: all the homeworks for seminars

**Recommended Literature:**

Mary Klages: Notes on Postmodernism (California) source: web, VIETOROVÁ, N. *Postmodern Shifts in American Postmodern Fiction.* Bratislava, 2005.; HIGH, P.B. – *An Outline of American Literature.* Edinburgh: Longman, 1986.; POWELL, Jim. *Postmodernism for Beginners.* New York : Writers and Readers Publishing, 1998.

GENETTE, Gérard. *Narrative Discourse*. Cornell University Press, 1980.; McHALE, Brian. *Postmoderist Fiction.* London, NY : Routledge, 2004.; *An Introduction to Contemporary Fiction.* Ed. Rod Mengham. Polity Press, 1999.; ECO, U. *The Role of the Reader.* Indiana University Press, 1979

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|  | **Week** | **TOPICS: LECTURES**  **(subject to chage)** | **Homework for the day: Always read relevant sections of the coursebook CB 1** |
|  | 1  22/9  Tue | **Periods of American literature**  **Literature of the turn of the century (Local Colour, Psychological Realism, Natura-lism), Modernism v. Postmodernism** | **The Lost Generation - CB1: Hemingway: Soldier´s Home** |
|  | 2  29/9 | **The Lost Generation** | **CB1: Hemingway: Soldier´s Home**  **CB2: pp. 21**  **Stein: Autobiography of A. B. Toklas**  **Fitzgerald: The Rich Boy**  **Hemingway: Indian Camp** |
| **3.** | 3  6/10 | **Modernist Poetry**  **Diversity of novel after 1945**  **The War Novel** | **CB1: T. S. Eliot: Wasteland, poems pp 45-48**  **Heller: Catch XXII, chapters 1-5** |
| **4.** | 4  13/10 | **The War Novel** | **Written graded homework (bring to 29/10):**  **Google facts about Jack Kerouac: (1 paragraph per task)**   1. Who were the “Beatnicks”? 2. Who was Jack Kerouac? 3. How did he become a writer? 4. Define Kerouack´s style 5. How did literary criticism recognize Kerouac? (authorize sources) |
| **5.** | 5  20/10 | **Anti-War protest: The Beat Generation** | **CB2: pp. 62-66**  **Salinger: The Catcher in the Rye** |
| **6.** | 6  27/10 | **Ethnic voices: Southern novel** | **CB2: pp. 37-56**  **Faulkner: Dry September**  **O´Connor: A Good Man is Hard to Find**  **Welty: The Wistle, A Worn Path** |
| **7.** | 7  3/11 | **Ethnic voices: Afro-American novel** | **CB2: pp. 90-100**  **Morisson: Song of Solomon**  **Walker: When the Other Dancer is the Self (p. 95)**  **Kincaid: The Autobiography of My Mother (p. 118)** |
| **8.** | 8  10/11 | **New trends in American literature: Jewish, Chinese-American, Hispanic and literature of Native Americans** | **CB2: pp. 56-61**  **Bellow: Herzog**  **Kingston: The Woman Warrior (p. 115)** |
| **9.** | 9  17/11 | **NO CLASS – state holiday** | **CB2: pp.67-89**  **Updike: My Father on the Verge of Disgrace**  **Minot: Thorofare**  **Wolf: The Other Miller**  **Sontag: The Way We live now (p. 101)** |
| **10.** | 10  24/11 | **Other Postmodern trends: GLBT literature, feminist writers, environmental writers** | **CB2: pp.67-89**  **Updike: My Father on the Verge of Disgrace**  **Minot: Thorofare**  **Wolf: The Other Miller**  **Sontag: The Way We live now (p. 101)** |
| **11.** | 1/12 | **American Drama** | **CB1: Death of a Salesman** |
|  |  | **No class unless replacement** | **needed** |

**E-MAIL AND ABSENCE POLICY: You may skip 4 lessons (180 mins). Skipping 5 lessons disqualifies you for the course. Please, NEVER write me e-mails – absence notifications. Also, do NOT bring doctor´s certificates in weeks 1-9. We will debate all your absences in week 10.**

"Výučba študentov všetkých študijných programov v zimnom semestri AR 2020/21 sa z dôvodu Covid-19 môže realizovať kombinovanou metódou." V tom prípade budú všetky hodiny odučené cez MS Teams v čase pôvodného rozvrhu.

*Enjoy the course, Doc. PaedDr. Jana Javorčíková, PhD.*