

	Course title: <b>Modern American Literature</b>			
Course code	Status of course	Semester	ECTS credits	Contact hours per week
AKPP20v	Compulsory	4	7	2+2

**Study programme(s):** English Language and Literature

**Eligibility requirements:** Completed course in *American Literature to 1900*

**Course objectives:** In the scope of this subject students are expected to acquire basic knowledge of American Modernism in literature, relevant works and cultural and historical contexts from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century up to the social equality movements of the 1960s. This subject is a link between *American Literature to 1900* and *Contemporary American Literature*.

**Learning outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- critically engage with the main characteristics and diversities of Modern American Literature
- identify selected texts, compare and contextualise them
- compare selected texts to earlier works of American Literature
- outline, present, and write coherent (con)textual analyses of selected poems and short stories
- outline, present, and write coherent (con)textual analyses of other examples from early American literature
- outline, present, and write a synthesis of several literary works, placing them within broader social and critical contexts

**Lecturer(s) and TA(s):** Dr Tatjana Bijelić, Milica Jošić-Milinović, MA

**Teaching methods and strategies:** Lectures, tutorials, seminar papers and presentations.

**Course topics:** Introduction to modernist theory in poetry, prose and drama; historical background and interpretation of relevant works of the American South; traits of modernist culture; 1930s and WWII as major turning points, post-war literature; insights into African-American literature; feminism in American literature.

Preparatory week	Preparation and student registration
Week 1	Modern age and modern literature; Modernism - introduction
Week 2	Poetry of Modernism; Imagism, impact of Eliot, Pound and Hilda Doolittle (H. D.); illustrations through the poetry of Stevens, Williams, Marianne Moore and others
Week 3	Modern prose; impact of Gertrude Stein and Sherwood Anderson
Week 4	Modern novel 1: F. S. Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Week 5	Modern novel 2: E. Hemingway, <i>A Farewell to Arms</i>
Week 6	Modern novel 3: W. Faulkner, <i>As I Lay Dying / The Sound and the Fury</i>
Week 7	Modern drama: E. O'Neill, <i>The Great God Brown</i>
Week 8	Harlem Renaissance; literature and culture of the 30's
Week 9	<b>Test I</b>
Week 10	Literature after WWII – overview
Week 11	Postwar American poetry: Roethke, Plath, Ginsberg and others
Week 12	Feminist movement; Adrienne Rich
Week 13	Postwar drama: Tennessee Williams: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> , Arthur Miller: <i>The Crucible</i> ; Edward Albee, <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>
Week 14	Postwar novel / novella: Harper Lee: <i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i> ; Saul Bellow: <i>Seize the Day</i> ; Carson McCullers: <i>The Ballad of the Sad Cafe</i>
Week 15	<b>Test II</b>

#### Student workload

<u>Contact hours per week</u>	<u>Total contact hours in semester</u>
2 + 2 (lectures and exercises) + 4 hours of independent research office hours	60

It is obligatory for students to attend both the lectures and tutorials.

#### **Course reading list:**

- (selected chapters/excerpts from the sources listed below)

1. Baym, Nina et al. (eds.): *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Package 2, W.W. Norton & Company, 2007.
2. Bradbury, Malcolm & Ruland, Richard: *From Puritanism to Postmodernism, A History of American Literature*, Penguin Books, 1991.
3. Bradbury, M.: *The Modern American Novel*, Oxford University Press, 1992.
4. Cunliffe, Marcus (ed.): *American Literature since 1900*, The Penguin History of Literature, London, 1998
5. Klaidjian, W. (ed): *The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism*, Cambridge, 2006.
6. Vukčević, Radojka: *A History of American Literature: Then and Now*, Podgorica, 2005.
7. Vukčević, Radojka: *Reading American Literature: A Critical Anthology*, Podgorica, 2002.
8. Vukčević, Radojka: *Perspectives on American Literature*, Univerzitet u Beogradu, 2008.
9. Zinn, Howard: *The Twentieth Century, A People's History*, Harper-Perennial, New York, 1998.

#### **Assessment and marking:**

25% 1<sup>st</sup> test (25 points maximum)

25% 2<sup>nd</sup> test (25 points maximum)

50% final exam (50 points maximum)

The final mark is based on the sum of the points earned on all the aforementioned tests.

***Specific course designation:*** /

***Syllabus information provided by:*** Dr Tatjana Bijelić, assoc. professor