

## General Information

<b>Course name</b>	American Literature - Selected Chapters	<b>ECTS Credits</b>	<b>3</b>
		<b>Semester</b>	<b>summer</b>

## Aims

The course focuses on the most contemporary American literature and its major themes as reflections of various aspects of American society. The aim is to discuss the latest issues in America within literary postmodern discourse, its genres, major tropes and the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary American literature in respect to politics, cultural studies, sociology etc. Apart from discussing fiction, the course will also go through the cinematic representation of some of the literary works and discuss the possibilities and limitations of visual representation of a literary work.

## Contents

1. Introductory session
2. Mapping contemporary American literature I
3. Mapping contemporary American Literature 2
4. Suburban mythology (Geoffrey Eugenides, *The Virgin Suicides* 1993)
5. Mothers/daughters (Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club* 1989)
6. Historical trauma (J.Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated* 2001)
7. Post-apocalypse (Cormac Mccarthy, *The Road* (2006)
8. Terrorism, Technology (Don DeLillo, *Cosmopolis* 2003, *The Falling Man*, 2007)
9. Violence and Consumerism, Chuck Palahniuk, *The Fight Club*, 1996)
10. Tutorials
11. Minority Issues, Alice Walker, *Color Purple*, 1982
12. Presentations

## Evaluation

Each student is required to prepare 2/25-30 minute presentations on selected work of fiction. One presentation should be selected from the list of literary works and the 2nd presentation should be student's own choice (only contemporary American literature).<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
 The presentation should include the following:<sup>[1][2]</sup>

1. Placing the work and the author within literary context (10 points)<sup>[1][2]</sup>
2. Very brief account of the plot (20 points)<sup>[1][2]</sup>
3. Perception of the literary criticism (including reviews, newspaper sources, academic databases) (30 points)<sup>[1][2]</sup>
4. Major themes and their discussion, characterization, the use of the language (30 points)<sup>[1][2]</sup>
5. Conclusion, comments, discussion (10 points)

## Bibliography

- (Geoffrey Eugenides, *The Virgin Suicides* 1993)  
 (Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club* 1989)<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
 (J.Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated* 2001)  
 (Cormac Mccarthy, *The Road* (2006)<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
 (Don DeLillo, *The Falling Man*, 2007)<sup>[1][2]</sup> Don DeLillo, *Cosmopolis*)<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
 (Chuck Palahniuk, *The Fight Club*)<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
 (Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* 2007)  
 Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*,  
 Philip Roth, *American Pastoral*

Cormac McCarthy, Blood Meridian  
Jonathan Franzen, Freedom<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>  
M. Robinson, Housekeeping,  
Own choice of a book

