



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code LALI-302	Course Title America in Literature and Film	ECTS Credits 6
Department Languages and Literature	Semester Spring	Prerequisites LALI-200, LALI-250
Type of Course Required (literature concentration)	Field English Literature	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 3 rd	Lecturer(s) Dr Polina Mackay
Mode of Delivery Dist. Learning	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

To study a range of modern and contemporary texts and films which are centrally concerned with the idea of America as a distinct cultural space. The course will explore some classic American works in relation to, among others, issues of history, race, materialism, class, violence and sexuality.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. evaluate the significance of the idea of America in modern and contemporary American literature and film,
2. expand on America as myth, concept and narrative in the body of work under study,
3. situate these texts within a broader historical and cultural context,
4. assess the major literary, theoretical and cultural movements that inform this work,
5. formulate interpretations of this work in coherent essays, assignments and research projects.

Course Contents:

1. *The Birth of A Nation* (revisiting the American Civil War, race)
2. F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (the Jazz Age, living in New York in the 1920s, materialism)
3. Nathaniel West, *The Day of the Locust* (Hollywood in the Great Depression)
4. Hubert Selby, *Last Exit to Brooklyn* (class, violence, sexuality)
5. Jonathan Lethem, “How We Got In Town and Out Again” (speculative fiction,

American dystopias)
6. Paul Haggis, *Crash* (contemporary LA, violence, race, class)

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussions with class participation

Assessment Methods:

Homework Assignments; Final Exam; Class Participation.

Required Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Great Gatsby</i>	Penguin	2007	9781853260414
Nathaniel West	<i>Day of the Locust</i>	Penguin	2000	0141182881
Hubert Selby	<i>Last Exit to Brooklyn</i>	Grove	2007	9780802131379

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Harry Benshoff, et al	<i>America on Film</i>	Blackwell	2009	9781405170550
Christopher Bigsby	<i>A New Introduction to American Studies</i>	Pearson	2006	0582894379
Paul Lauter	<i>Companion to American Literature and Culture</i>	Blackwell	2010	9780631208921

