

AMERYKANISTYKA

Seminaria magisterskie 2021/22

Limit osób w grupie: 8-12

Dr. hab. Jørgen Veisland, prof. UG

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

The course for the winter semester 2021 is designed for 1st year master's students in American Studies. The course will focus on 19th, 20th and 21st century literary texts that examine and thematize social and economic problems in American society. The discussion of the texts selected will prepare the students in the discipline of literary analysis and likewise be helpful when it comes to finding and applying critical sources.

The texts selected for this purpose will include Stephen Crane's novella *Maggie* (1895), a brief selection of short stories by the same author; John Steinbeck's short novel *Of Mice and Men* (1935); Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* (1958); Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved* (1987); Philip Roth's novel *The Human Stain* (1999); and Paul Auster's novel *The Book of Illusions* (2002).

The lectures and discussions of the texts named above will concentrate on the motifs of social and economic despair, alienation, exclusion and racial prejudice. Active student participation is required, in the form of thorough preparation and reading of the texts before class and participation in discussions in class. An oral presentation in class is also required by each individual student. The general aim of the course is to stimulate awareness of, and further a critical analysis of social, economic and racial problematics in American society as these issues are illuminated in literature.

Dr hab. Marta Koval, prof. UG

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE: CHALLENGES OF TRADITION AND NEW TRENDS

During the seminar, we will discuss major trends in American literature and culture from the mid-1960s until the early 21st century. We will look at narrative, esthetic, political, gender, ethnic, and

racial multivocality and heterogeneity in contemporary American fiction, film, and other cultural practices that challenge the ideas of canon and tradition. In particular, we will focus on literary and cultural representations of identity, otherness, trauma, and remembering. We will read and discuss theoretical works by European and American intellectuals to develop an interpretive perspective for the analysis of the esthetic, artistic, and social value of literary texts, films, and cultural activities.