

AMERYKANISTYKA

SEMINARIA MAGISTERSKIE 2024/25

LICZEBNOŚĆ GRUP: 8-12

Dr. hab. A Misztal, prof. UG

Time in American Culture and Literature

The seminar investigates time and time-related phenomena and processes in American culture and literature by analyzing their patterns, values, and concepts through readings, video, and discussion. Some of the topics covered in the seminar:

- Narrative articulations of time and temporal experience
- Temporal Systems and Chronopolitics
- Time and Mind: W. James
- Time shapes and timescapes
- Time and speed: dromological perspectives on the contemporary technosphere
- De/acceleration: aesthetics and practice of slowness
- 24/7 temporality
- and others

This 4-semester seminar aims to help you engage with and explore these topics as part of your M.A. research project.

Dr Miłosz Wojtyna

Human Incorporated: Work in the 21st Century

Work is a source of satisfaction and frustration, of money and debt, of development and corrosion. It brings us dreams and nightmares. Why? Because we work for better and worse organisations: companies and institutions that suit our needs, or don't. Because we are and are not prepared to do what we do. Because work is as complex a matter as they get.

Organisations we work for are not all the same. They differ in so many respects, some of which we will study in this seminar, trying to understand what it means to work today: in a working environment shaped by digital technologies, post-Fordist management practices, the pursuit of automation, the violence of the screen, cognitive overload, the productivity paradox, and an increasingly problematized approach we show towards authority and freedom. Work is a swampy area to study.

It's not all misery, though. There's complexity, too – and wherever there is complexity, there's a chance for challenges, curiosity, and fun. Organisations that encourage these three are fundamental to the social order (or the disruption of it) as well as to the lives of individuals and social groups. Work for such organisations can build us, too.

What do these organisations look like? What stories do they tell? What does it mean to work for them? How can work and organisations be studied today? How can the understanding of contemporary workplace and work reality help you in the future?

This 4-semester MA seminar aims to answer these questions as **part of a larger project called "Human Tech"**, which studies the fascinating relationship between people and technology.

As part of your MA project, you will:

- study the culture of a chosen organisation – preferably an American corporation. This means meeting and interviewing people, reading materials, analysing and interpreting narratives, participating in the daily lives of the organisations you will be studying,
- read on such subjects as narrative theory, corporate storytelling, sociology of work, personal identity, capitalism, automation, feminism, communication theory, empathy, and business ethics,
- analyse cultural representations of work, workplaces, employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership,

- maintain relationships with companies and institutions involved in the Human Tech project,
- attend webinars with invited guests, and invite speakers you want to listen to,
- prepare to find a good job,
- write an analytical-interpretive thesis (diploma paper) that covers a relevant subject area that you have studied, excerpts of which might later be published in a book,
- prepare a presentation to share with examiners and other participants in the project

For more information, you can write to me at milosz.wojtyna@ug.edu.pl