

AMERYKANISTYKA

Seminaria licencjackie 2024/25

Liczebność grup: 8-12

Dr Alicja Chmiótek

FILM ADAPTATIONS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

The seminar will be devoted to film adaptations of American literary works. A special emphasis will be put on novels and short stories from the American literary canon adapted into feature films. Nevertheless, students will be able to choose more contemporary literary works as well. While writing about film adaptations representing various genres, conventions and tropes will be supported, choosing genres such as horror, science fiction, thriller and fantasy will be especially encouraged.

The seminar will introduce students to the process of writing BA papers: choosing a topic, developing research questions, analyzing and interpreting filmmakers' approaches, gathering and analyzing source materials, creating a bibliography and writing a coherent thesis. Students are expected to do their homework assignments (bibliography exercises, assigned readings) and submit parts of their BA papers on time.

Dr Barbara Miceli

HISTORICAL EVENTS AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE, FILM, AND TV SERIES

This seminar is an analysis of novels, films, or TV series inspired by historical events, current news, or contemporary issues such as gender and race-based discrimination, pandemics, and politics. Students will learn how these works creatively manipulate and utilize reality, as well as how to differentiate between various genres like novels, nonfiction novels, memoirs, biographies, and biopics, and analyze them critically.

This seminar serves as a precursor to writing a BA dissertation on a related theme. The requirements for the seminar include:

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is mandatory.

- **Active participation:** Students must actively participate in class discussions.
- **Written presentation and bibliography:** By the end of the winter semester, students must submit a written presentation of their dissertation topic and a tentative bibliography.

Dr Iwona Świątczak-Wasilewska

RHETORIC AND US POLITICAL CULTURE

US political culture is marked by visionary speeches which can lay the groundwork for presidential/ political careers. This BA seminar is dedicated to the study of US political rhetorical genres, including inaugural addresses, farewell addresses, campaign speeches, concession speeches, war rhetoric, apologia, eulogies, and state speeches (i.e. state of the union, state of the state, and state of the city addresses). In their BA theses, students will attempt: 1) to uncover distinctive conventions governing US political speeches, 2) to investigate how American politicians, presidents, or presidential candidates use language to comprehend, create, and respond to rhetorical situations; and also, 3) to understand and explain American values, ideologies, identities, and the role of religion in American public life.

Dr Beata Williamson

AMERICAN LITERATURE

The aim of this seminar is to lead students towards a BA thesis which analyzes and interprets a selected text (texts) of American literature (prose, but poetry is also an option). The classes will be devoted to:

- discussion of literary texts and aspects of American culture
- revising major critical approaches
- formalist text analysis, close reading
- research
- discussing progress of work

Requirements:

- active participation in classes and doing home assignments (connected with research and text analysis)
- attendance (one “unexcused” absence per semester)

In order to get my signature for the 1st semester, a seminarist must deliver the second draft of the theoretical (research) part of the BA paper (8 pages); for the 2nd semester—the finished paper.

Dr Weronika Metlenga

ART AND AUDIOVISUAL CULTURE

This seminar is intended for those who would like to focus their research interests on issues related to art and audiovisual culture (e.g. music, film, fine arts). Topics may concern the language used in each of these forms of expression as a tool for creating an image of a given part of US history. The preferred methods used in writing BA thesis are comparative studies and monographs using critical discourse analysis and content analysis.