

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Modern and Contemporary Literature : The Poetics and Politics of American Literature from

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Boris Vejdovsky

Objectifs:

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the development of American literature in the twentieth century and give them a grasp of its diachronic development. The course also seeks to enable students to think of American literature in a synchronic manner, that is, to envisage some of its major themes and currents by comparing different types of texts from different periods of time. Students will be expected to combine close reading and the contextualization of the course texts with the acquisition of specific vocabulary and historical and theoretical concepts.

Contenu:

This B.A. course examines the development of American literature in context from the 1920s to the present day. The course will propose to read a selection of prose, poetry and drama texts, but also political and cultural documents including cinema, music and the visual arts. The course will insist on the connections between poetics and politics, that is, on the performative power of literature and the arts and the ways in which they have impinged on the fashioning of America and its global role in the twentieth century.

Forme de l'évaluation:

The evaluation of the course will consist in an in class mid-term test (1/3 of the grade) and a final 3000-word essay (2/3 of the grade). For the mid-term test, students can use their own copies of the primary texts and a dictionary, but no notes or any other material. Final essays are to be downloaded on the MOODLE site of the course by 31 July 2013.

Documentation:

Students must sign up on the MOODLE site of the course to receive the information and updates on the course: <<http://moodle2.unil.ch/>>. Key (case sensitive): UNINE_BA_2013

Most texts of the class are contained in The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vols. C & D (Seventh Edition). Students are strongly encouraged to purchase that anthology. Whenever possible, texts are also made available the Moodle site of the course. The site also contains additional audio and visual material that will be discussed in class.

Students are expected to read the texts before class and familiarize themselves with all the proposed material. Students should be prepared to discuss the material in class and ask questions about it. At the end of the course, students will be expected to have read and prepared all the material listed under "Reading" as well as the additional material.

Boris Vejdovsky's reception hours are on Tuesday, by appointment.

For any question contact boris.vejdovsky@unil.ch or François SPANGENBERG <Francois.Spangenberg@unine.ch>.