

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information below is subject to change, in particular that concerning the teaching mode (presential, distance or in a comodal or hybrid format).

5 credits	30.0 h	Q2
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This biannual learning is being organized in 2020-2021

Teacher(s)	Bragard Véronique ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The course studies : 1. the material reality; 2. political and social organisation (forms of government); 3. moral attitudes; 4. Cultural, intellectual, philosophical and religious life; 5. the hopes, failures and achievements of the communities in English-speaking countries.
Aims	The course studies the major developments and structures in politics, social relationships and culture, and introduces the students to contemporary life in the United States. 1 By the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired in-depth knowledge of the identity and culture of the United States. ---- <i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i>
Evaluation methods	Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change. Assessment: written exam.
Teaching methods	Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change. Teaching method: formal lectures, personal readings, museum visits.
Content	This course offers students a survey of American history in its broader conceptualization, taking into account cultural, artistic and memorial aspects. It addresses the cultural construction of memory by interrogating various geographical sites and texts in which traces of the past are physically ingrained, commemorated, represented, celebrated or contested. Every module will also address the history and circulation of resources within the country's borders, in an attempt to highlight how the exploitation/extraction of natural resources have shaped the political, social and territorial configurations of the country. In other words, we will explore how natural landscapes also become witnesses of political decisions and conflicts. Starting from Bull & Hansen's work on modes of memory (antagonistic, cosmopolitan, agonistic), this class asks the question why and how America remembers the past through landscapes, monuments, memorials, literary texts or visual art forms that offer diverse modes of engagement with identity politics and conflicts. Developing Nora's concept of "Site of memory" and contemporary debates about memorialization, it attempts to understand the construction and Americanness of America and how art and sites of memory (monuments, memorials but also geographical sites such as foxholes, Native American reservations, mining sites, polluted areas, pipeline constructions) mediate politics and identity/community struggles. It proceeds through case studies to show how political/energy motives and conflicts become entangled in debates about the appropriate mode of representing the past. Students will participate in a field trip to Bastogne or the Boverie (Andy Warhol retrospective) and write assignments about American sites of memory.
Other infos	Study aids: course book, text syllabus, video extracts of films, documentaries and archives.
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5		
Minor in English Studies	MINANGL	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		