***Syllabus***

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| **Department**  | **Department of English Studies** | **Year** | 2025/2026 |
| **Course**  | Paradigms of Violence | **ECTS** | **4** |
| **Study programme** | MA Program in English; philology |
| **Level of study programme** | [ ]  Undergraduate | [x]  Graduate | [ ]  Integrated | [ ]  Postgraduate |
| **Type of study programme** | [ ]  Single major[x]  Double major  | [x]  University | [ ]  Professional | [ ]  Specialized |
| **Year of study** | [ ]  1 | [ ]  2 | [ ]  3 | [x]  4 | [x]  5 |
| **Semester** | [x]  Winter[ ]  Summer | [x]  I | [ ]  II | [x]  III | [ ]  IV | [ ]  V |
| [ ]  VI | [ ]  VII | [ ]  VIII | [ ]  IX | [ ]  X |
| **Status of the course** | [ ]  Compulsory | [x] Elective | [x]  Elective course offered to students from other departments | **Teaching Competencies** | [ ]  YES [x]  NO |
| **Workload** | **30** | **L** | **15** | **S** |  | **E** | **Internet sources for e-learning** | [x]  YES [ ]  NO |
| **Location and time of instruction** | **Hall 157 (Old Campus)** | **Language(s) in which** **the course is taught** | English  |
| **Course start date** | 7th October | **Course end date** | 23rd January |
| **Enrolment requirements** | Enrolment in the 1st or 3rd semester of the MA Program (in English, philology) |
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| **Course coordinator** | Marko Lukić, PhD, Full Professor |
| **E-mail** | mlukic@unizd.hr | **Consultation hours** | By appointment |
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| **Mode of teaching** | [x]  Lectures | [x]  Seminars and workshops | [ ]  Exercises | [ ]  E-learning | [ ]  Field work |
| [x]  Individual assignments | [ ]  Multimedia and network | [ ]  Laboratory | [ ]  Mentoring | [ ]  Other |
| **Learning outcomes** | * Critical assessment of different narratives in relation to their social, political and cultural context
* Understanding and analysis of the cultural context and influence of different violence phenomena within American literature and culture
* Understanding and use of basic and advanced literary and cultural theoretical concepts in the analysis of literary and non-literary production
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| **Learning outcomes at the Programme level** | Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:* recognize and describe relevant concepts and ideas
* connect different theoretical approaches and concepts
* apply a critical and self-critical approach during discussions
* act ethically during individual and group work
* be familiar with and understand certain social and cultural aspects related to the American literary and non-literary production
* be able to analyze relevant theoretical approaches and concepts in the field of contemporary cultural and literary theory
* distinguish basic theoretical concepts of narrative and narratology, and analyse narratives in literature and film
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| **Assessment criteria**  | [x]  Class attendance | [x]  Preparation for class | [ ]  Homework | [x]  Continuous evaluation | [ ]  Research |
| [ ]  Practical work | [ ]  Experimental work | [ ]  Presentation | [ ]  Project | [ ]  Seminar |
| [x]  Test(s) | [ ]  Written exam | [x]  Oral exam | [ ]  Other: |
| **Conditions for permission to take the exam** | Attendance of 70% of classes and completion of the project assignment are prerequisites for taking the final exam. |
| **Exam periods** | [x]  Winter | [ ]  Summer | [x]  Autumn­ |
| **Exam dates** | <https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-rokovi>  | <https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-rokovi>  | <https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-rokovi>  |
| **Course description** | Students will gain insight into the phenomena of violence present in contemporary American literature and culture. Through the analysis of various social issues as well as literary texts the student will gain an insight into the reoccurring presence and re-affirmation, which in turn can be observed as a subversive instrument whose function is the questioning and the subverting of the utopian perception of the American dream. By attempting to follow the development of violent paradigms, and through the analysis of its roots, the course will attempt to emphasize the role of literature within the process of articulation of the American “national anxiety”. In addition to this, through their seminar work, the students are expected to continue, in a more critical way, the analysis of the relationship between violence, society and literature. |
| **Course content** | 1. Introductory lecture (review of the thematic units, materials, course structure, obligations)
2. The issue of violence and the contemporary American novel
3. How Vietnam was lost, American exceptionalism
4. Vietnam, The New Frontier, JFK, the influence of the media, Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*
5. New Journalism, Michael Herr, *Dispatches,* the map, spatial issues
6. Philip Caputo, *Rumors of War*, Tim O'Brien *The Things They Carried*, the “transformation“
7. The Wild West, The Frontier, elements of the Western genre, the gunslingers/cowboys
8. Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian*, the characters, The New vs. The Old World, desert/space
9. *No Country for Old Men*, new forms of violence, the changing of the mythology, *The Road*
10. Consumerism and violence, the Panopticum, conspiracy and paranoia, Don DeLillo
11. Burroughs and DeLillo, *Americana*, *Running Dog*
12. *White Noise*, media and violence
13. *Libra*, the assassination of the President, the birth of “media violence”
14. *Underworld*, Cold War paranoia, the imagery of a serial killer
15. Closing lecture
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| **Required reading** | 1. Michael Herr - *Dispatches*
2. Philip Caputo – *A Rumor of War*
3. David Morrell – *First Blood*
4. Cormac McCarthy – *Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West*
5. Cormac McCarthy – *No Country for Old Men*
6. Cormac McCarthy - *The Road*
7. Don DeLillo – *White Noise*
8. Don DeLillo - *Libra*
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| **Additional reading** | 1. Slotkin, Richard. *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth-Century*: University of Oklahoma Press, 1998.
2. Bruce B. Lawrence, Aisha Karim Eds. – *On Violence, A Reader*
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| **Internet sources** |  |
| **Assessment criteria of learning outcomes** | Final exam only |  |
| [ ]  Final written exam | [ ]  Final oral exam | [ ]  Final written and oral exam | [ ]  Practical work and final exam |
| [ ]  Only test/homework  | [x]  Test/homework and final exam | [ ]  Seminar paper | [ ]  Seminar paper and final exam | [ ]  Practical work | [ ]  other forms |
| **Calculation of final grade** | 40% of the final grade is premised on attendance, reading activities, and active participation, 60% of the grade is premised on midterm tests and the final exam |
| **Grading scale** | 0-59 | % Failure (1) |
| 60-69 | % Satisfactory (2) |
| 70-79 | % Good (3) |
| 80-89 | % Very good (4) |
| 90-100 | % Excellent (5) |
| **Course evaluation procedures** | [x]  Student evaluations conducted by the University[ ]  Student evaluations conducted by the Department[ ]  Internal evaluation of teaching[x]  Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations[ ]  Other |
| **Note /Other** | In accordance with Art. 6 of the *Code of Ethics* of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, “the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice.”According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar's *Code of Ethics*, students are expected to “fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. […] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. […]Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:- various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted;-various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam; impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results.”All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the *Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar* will be applied.In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.This course uses the Merlin system for e-learning, so students are required to have an AAI account.  |