



UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA  
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY

MASTER'S STUDIES

Study programme(s) English Language and Literature

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Contemporary American Poetry and Poetics</b>			
<b>Code</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Contact hours per week</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Elective	1 <sup>st</sup>	2+2	5
<b>Lecturer(s)</b>	Prof. Petar Penda, Ph.D.			

**Eligibility requirements**

N/A

**Course objectives**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to American poetry made since the 1970s, contemporary theoretical texts authored by the poets studied, and the most recent approaches to the study of poetry in general.

**Learning outcomes**

Students learn about the general characteristics of American poetry since the 1970s. Selected poets are studied in greater detail, with special attention paid to their theoretical texts. In addition, students demonstrate to what extent they have acquired theory and are able to apply it in practice by writing term papers and giving oral presentations.

**Course topics**

In the introductory part, the course gives an insight into the social, historical and cultural context as reflected in contemporary American poetry. An overview of the poetic legacy preceding the period under consideration locates the novelties brought by contemporary American poetry, and also the way in which it correlates with major social and political events and contemporary culture.

A brief overview of the most recent theories of poetic art serves as an introduction to the study of the poetry and poetics of selected poets. The acquired knowledge of literary theory is applied to the reading of Adrienne Rich, Robert Bly, Charles Wright, Charles Simic, Michael S. Harper, Louise Glück, Joy Harjo, Rita Dove, etc.

**Teaching methods and strategies**

**Course reading list**

1. Hoover, P. (ed.) (1994). *Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York.
2. Poulain, A, Waters M. (ed.) (2006). *Contemporary American Poetry*. Houghton Mifflin Company: New York.
3. Penda, P. (2009). *Eight Contemporary American Poets*. Zadužbina Petar Kočić: Banja Luka – Beograd.

4. Leitch, V. B. (ed.) (2001). *The Norton Anthology: Theory and Criticism*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York.
5. Charlesworth Gelpi, B. (1993). *Adrienne Rich's Poetry and Prose*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York.
6. Holden, J. (2000). *The Old Formalism: Character in Contemporary American Poetry*, University of Arkansas: Little Rock.

**Assessment and marking**

Class attendance and active participation	5%
Term paper	45%
Oral exam	50%

**Special course designation**

**Syllabus information provided by:** Prof. Petar Penda, Ph.D.