# Anglo-American Anthropology and Culture

## Prof. Francesco Rognoni

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to analyse a selection of works in order to explain the key elements of the history of literature and culture in the United States. In addition, it will develop the concepts of literary and intersemiotic translation (which means the transformation of a literary work into a cinematographic one). At the end of the course, students will acquire a highly representative overview of North American culture of the 1900s.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (semester 1:): *Hollywood novels and their adaptations in film*

Lectures will focus on analysing four novels from the 1930s and 1940s set in Hollywood – *The Day of the Locust* by N. West, *The Last Tycoon* by F. S. Fitzgerald, *What Makes Sammy Run?* by B. Schulberg and *The Little Sister* by R. Chandler – as well as the film adaptations of the first two.

Module II (semester 2): *The American 20th-century short story: a selection*

Lectures will focus on analysing the American short story. The first part of the course will be dedicated to authors from the 1800s (Poe, Hawthorne, Melville), before moving on to 20th century with selected stories by F.S. Fitzgerald, D. Schwartz, J. O’Hara, J. Cheever, S. Jackson, F. O’Connor, I. B. Singer, B. Malamud, R. Carver and R. Ford.

***READING LIST***

Module 1:

N. West, *The Day of the Locust* (any edition)

F.S. Fitzgerald, *The Last Tycoon* (any edition)

B. Schulberg, *What Makes Sammy Run?* (any edition)

R. Chandler, *The Little Sister* (any edition)

Module 2:

All texts on the syllabus will be provided in a course pack.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class in English and Italian.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam in English. The exam is divided into two parts, in which students will be asked open questions. In the first part, students must demonstrate their knowledge of the authors covered in module 1, as well as their work (Fitzgerald, West, Schulberg and Chandler), and be able to place them in their respective historical-literary contexts; they must also demonstrate their ability to read aloud correctly, their understanding of the passages from the texts on the syllabus, their grasp of vocabulary and linguistic structures and their ability to analyse and interpret them in a critical way and with independence of judgement. The same applies for the authors covered in module 2*.* The final mark, expressed in thirtieths, will result from the average between the first (50%) and the second (50%) part of the assessment: in order to pass it, students must obtain at least 18/30 points in each part. Other assessment criteria include use of proper language, ability to make clear presentations, and development of argumentative skills. In addition, students who have made presentations in class will have the possibility either to reduce the number of questions or to increase their mark during the final assessment.

The course syllabus is the same for everyone (regardless of class attendance).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For students who wish to obtain 4 or 5 credits, the exam will be on *one module only* *(of their choice)*; for students who wish to obtain 8 or 10 credits, the exam will be on both modules.

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should have good writing and speaking skills in English, and a basic knowledge of American literature. In addition, students should ideally show a certain curiosity and passion towards reading.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.