

Study program	English Department, undergraduate			
Course	Questions of race in American literature and popular culture			
Status of the course	elective			
Year	II (undergraduate)	Semester	4	
ECTS credits	3			
Teacher	Assistant Professor Marko Lukić, PhD			
e-mail	<a href="mailto:mlukic@unizd.hr">mlukic@unizd.hr</a>			
consultation hours	Monday 12-13 (or by appointment)			
Associate / assistant	Zlatko Bukač, mag.			
e-mail	<a href="mailto:zbukac@unizd.hr">zbukac@unizd.hr</a>			
Consultation hours	Tuesday 11-12 (or by appointment)			
Place of teaching	157			
Teaching methods	Lectures, seminars			
Teaching workload Lectures + Seminars + Exercises	2+1			
Examination methods	Critical review of selected African-American novel, final reaction text. Weekly homework based on the selected readings.			
Start date	5/3/2018	End date	4/6/2018	
Colloquia	1. term	2. term	3. term	4. term
Examination period	1. term	2. term	3. term	4. term
Learning outcomes	After completing this course students will be able to:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recognize and describe relevant concepts and ideas</li><li>- Connect different theoretical approaches and ideas</li><li>- Apply critical and self-critical approach to presenting arguments</li><li>- Apply and work within ethical principals in individual and group research</li><li>- Understand certain aspects of social and cultural diversity and multiculturalism</li><li>- Evaluate the importance of work in international context</li><li>- Analyze the most important and most relevant theoretical approaches and terms in contemporary cultural and literary theory</li><li>- Critically evaluate literary texts in relation to their social, political and cultural contexts</li><li>- Analyze representation of race in literature and other cultural products</li><li>- Present ideas and projects in the form of professional presentation</li><li>- Understand and use basic and advanced theoretical concepts of race and racism which have influence on literature's development</li></ul>			
Enrolment prerequisites	Students should be enrolled in the 4 <sup>th</sup> semester			
Course subject	This course will examine the significance of African-American literature in regard to its historical development as well as within contemporary and global context. The aim of this course is to re-			

	<p>examine representation of race and provide an insight into development of this part of American literature which is concentrated on racial problems by also providing specific ‘tools’ within literary and cultural theory (such as cultural hegemony, postmodernism, deconstruction, discourse theory, structural racism etc.). The course approaches the development of African-American literature as eligible for deeper analysis in regards to the concept of race and racial identity, as well as the role of the nation in regarding to racism and, finally, problematizes the representation of race in contemporary context.</p> <p>With regard to these notions, the course is basically consisted of two parts. First part of the class presents the most significant authors within the African-American literary tradition, as well as the most important eras and aspects in its development. The second part is analysis of representation of race in regard to other product makers, different authors, corporations, entertainment industry and publishing houses such as graphic novels, popular culture, television shows, video games etc.</p> <p>With completion of this course, students will be able to use basic and advanced theoretical concepts of race, racism and cultural racism. They will also have improved knowledge within the field of literary and cultural theory, as well as be able to analyze the representation of race in various cultural products.</p>
<p><b>Required reading</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coates, Ta-Nehisi. <i>Between the World and Me: Notes on the First 150 Years in America</i>. New York: Spiegel &amp; Grau, 2015.</li> <li>• Du Bois, W. E. B. <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>. Oxford World’s Classics: Oxford University Press. 2007. (1903)</li> <li>• Evans, J. and S. Hall. (eds), <i>Visual Culture: the Reader</i>. London, SAGE. 2005. (selected parts)</li> <li>• Hall, S. What is "black" in black popular culture?</li> <li>• hooks, bell (1981). <i>Ain't I a woman?: Black women and feminism</i></li> <li>• hooks, bell. <i>We real cool: Black men and masculinity</i>. New York: Routledge. 2004.</li> <li>• Howard C. Sheena and Rolan L.Jackson II. <i>Black Comics. Politics of Race and Representation</i>. Bloomsbury:London. 2013.</li> <li>• Mills, Sara. <i>Discourse</i>. London: Routledge. 2009. Print</li> <li>• Regalado, Aldo J. "Modernity, Race and the American Superhero." <i>Comics as Philosophy</i> Ed. Jeff McLaughlin. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005: 84–99.</li> <li>• Rose, Gillian. <i>Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials</i>. London: Sage Publication.</li> </ul>

	<p>2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Said, Edward. <i>Orientalism</i>. Vintage. 1979.</li> <li>• Shohat, Ella. Notes on the “Post-colonial”. <i>Social Texts</i> No.31/32. <i>Third World and Postcolonial Issues</i>. 1992, pp. 99-113.</li> <li>• Smith, Philip and Alexander Riley. <i>Cultural Theory: An Introduction</i>, 2nd Edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell. 2008.</li> <li>• Woodward, Kath. <i>Understanding Identity</i>. Oxford University Press. 2002.</li> <li>• Young, Robert. <i>Postcolonialism: a very short introduction</i>. 2003. (selected parts)</li> <li>• Morrison, Toni. <i>Home</i>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2012.</li> <li>• Morrison, Toni. <i>The Bluest Eye</i>. Vintage. 1970.</li> <li>• Thurston, Baratunde. <i>How to Be Black</i>. New York: HarperCollins. 2012.</li> <li>• Packer, Z. Z. <i>Drinking Coffee Elsewhere</i>. Riverhead Books. 2003.</li> <li>• Southgate, Martha. <i>Third Girl from the Left</i>. Mariner Books. 2005.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berlant, Lauren. <i>The Queen of America goes to Washington City: Essays on Sex and Citizenship</i>. London, Duke University Press. 1996.</li> <li>• Hall, Stuart. "The Spectacle of the Other", <i>Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 1997, pp. 225-257.</li> <li>• Bhabha, Homi. <i>Nation and Narration</i>, London and New York: Routledge, 1990. (selected parts)</li> <li>• Fanon, Franz. <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>. Translated by Charles Lam Markmann. New York: Grove, 1967. (selected parts)</li> <li>• Mitchell, W.J.T. <i>What do Pictures Want?: the Lives and Loves of Images</i>. The University of Chicago Press, 2004, pp. 28-57.</li> <li>• Sturken Marita and Lisa Cartwright. <i>Practices of Looking: Introduction to Visual Culture</i>, Oxford, Oxford University Press. 2001.</li> <li>• Jameson, Frederic. <i>Postmodernism, or, the Logic of Late Capitalism</i>. Durham, Duke University Press. 1991.</li> <li>• Scott, Anna Beatrice. "Superpower vs Supernatural: Black</li> </ul>

	<p>Superheroes and the Quest for a Mutant Reality." Journal of Visual Culture 5.3. (2006.):295-314.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitchell, William. <i>The Reconfigured Eye: Visual Truth in the Post Photographic Era</i>. London, MIT Press. 1992.</li> <li>• Nama, Adilifu. <i>Super Black: American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes</i>. University of Texas Press. 2011.</li> <li>• Strange Tales #169 - 173 (Sept. 1973 - April 1974)</li> <li>• "The Secret!" Tales of Suspense no.86 New York:Marvel Comics, 1967, 13-22</li> <li>• Anderson, Benedict. 1991. <i>Imagined communities: reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism</i>. London: Verso. 2006.</li> <li>• Marvel Comics. <i>Giant-Size X-Men 40th Anniversary</i>. New York: Marvel. 2015.</li> <li>• Luke Cage, Hero for Hire, issues 1-14. New York: Marvel. 1972.</li> <li>• American Crime Story Season 1</li> <li>• Black Panther movie</li> </ul>
<b>Internet resources</b>	<p><i>Representation, Stuart Hall</i>  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sbYyw1mPdQ</a>  <i>How Ta-Nehisi Coates's letter to his son about being black in America became a bestseller</i>  <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/20/ta-nehisi-coates-interview-between-the-world-and-me-black-america">http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/20/ta-nehisi-coates-interview-between-the-world-and-me-black-america</a>  <i>Writers Like Me by Martha Southgate</i>  <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/01/books/review/Southgate-t.html?_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/01/books/review/Southgate-t.html?_r=0</a>  <i>Toni Morrison: 'I want to feel what I feel. Even if it's not happiness'</i>  <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/apr/13/toni-morrison-home-son-love">http://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/apr/13/toni-morrison-home-son-love</a></p>
<b>Quality assurance</b>	Course Evaluation is used to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The feedback from evaluation will help guide changes in future.
<b>Conditions for obtaining signatures</b>	Attendance, written assignments, reaction texts
<b>Assignments of the credits for colloquia, seminars, exercises, exams</b>	<p>1 ECTS – attendance and participation (lectures)  1 ECTS – attendance and weekly homework (seminars)  1 ECTS – preparation for final exam (essay)</p>
<b>Assignments of the final grade</b>	<p>Attendance (15 weeks x2 points each)=30 points  Written weekly assignments ( 3 written posts x 10 points each) = 30 points  Final Response/Reaction Paper =40 points</p> <p>All grades will be finalized by total number of points obtained.</p> <p>Grading scale:  90 – 100 points –(5)  89 – 79 points – (4)  78 – 69 points –(3)  68- 59 points –(2)  Less than 59 points –(1)</p>
<b>Remarks</b>	

Teaching topics - lectures			
No.	Date	Title	Literature
1.		Introduction	
2.		Identity theories, Harlem Renaissance, and cultural legacy of Uncle Tom's Cabin	Woodward, Kath. Understanding Identity. Oxford University Press. 2002. Carla L. Peterson. What Renaissance?: A Deep Genealogy of Black Culture in Nineteenth-Century New York City. In: <i>A Companion to the Harlem Renaissance</i> . Edited by Sherrard Johnson. Blackwell. 2015.
3.		Stuart Hall and theory of representation, Du Bois and double consciousness	Du Bois, W. E. B. The Souls of Black Folk. Oxford World's Classics: Oxford University Press. 2007. (1903)
4.		Life and work of Toni Morrison	Selection of Toni Morrison's work
5.		Feminist and film theory of bell hooks	hooks, bell. We real cool: Black men and masculinity. New York: Routledge. 2004.  hooks, bell (1981). Ain't I a woman?: Black women and feminism
6.		Reading week -students will have a free week from this class to read a novel (of their choice from the list)	Toni Morrison – <i>Home</i> Toni Morrison - <i>The Bluest Eye</i> Baratunde Thurston - <i>How to Be Black</i> Z. Z. Packer - <i>Drinking Coffee Elsewhere</i> Martha Southgate - <i>Third Girl from the Left</i> James Baldwin – <i>The Fire Next Time</i>
7.		Easter holidays	
8.		Postcolonial theories	Said, Edward. Orientalism. Vintage. 1979. (selected parts)
9.		Black superheroes in graphic novels and Civil Right Movement	Adilifu Nama. American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes. University of

			Texas Press. 2011. (Selected parts) Howard C. Sheena and Rolan L.Jackson II. Black Comics. Politics of Race and Representation. Bloomsbury:London. 2013. Giant Size X-Men
10.		Black superheroes in graphic novels, postcolonialism, stereotypes	Adilifu Nama. American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes. University of Texas Press. 2011. (Selected parts)
11.		Contemporary problems related to race and racism (the N-word, political correctness, police brutality)	American Crime Story Season 1
12.		Popular culture and representation of race	Stuart Hall What Is This "Black" in Black Popular Culture?
13.		Black hyper-masculinity in popular culture	Hall, Stuart. "The Spectacle of the Other", Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 1997, pp. 225-257.
14.		Methods of visual and discourse analysis	Evans, J. and S. Hall. (eds), Visual Culture: the Reader. London, SAGE. 2005. (selected parts)
15.		Course review and student feedback	

Seminar topics			
No.	Date	Topic	Literature
1.		Introduction	
2.		Close reading of a novel	Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Between the World and Me: Notes on the First 150 Years in America.
3.		Close reading of a novel	Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Between the World and Me: Notes on the First 150 Years in America.
4.		Close reading of a novel	Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Between the World and Me: Notes on the First 150 Years in America
5.		How to write a reaction text	
6.		<b>Reading week</b>	Toni Morrison – <i>Home</i>

		Students will write their final essay (5-8 pages), reaction text on selected novel.	<p>Toni Morrison - <i>The Bluest Eye</i></p> <p>Baratunde Thurston - <i>How to Be Black</i></p> <p>Z. Z. Packer - <i>Drinking Coffee Elsewhere</i></p> <p>Martha Southgate - <i>Third Girl from the Left</i></p>
7.		Easter holidays	
8.		Postcolonial theories	Said, Edward. <i>Orientalism</i> . Vintage. 1979. (selected parts)
9.		Discussion on representation of race in media	
10.		Close reading of a novel	Claudia Rankine - <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i>
11.		Close reading of a novel	Claudia Rankine - <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i>
12.		Close reading of a novel	Claudia Rankine - <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i>
13.		Analysis of cultural texts / postcolonialism and stereotypes in popular culture	Adilifu Nama. <i>American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes</i> . University of Texas Press. 2011. (Selected parts)
14.		Analysis of cultural texts / Narratives about race in media / Examples in black superhero comic-books	<i>American Crime Story Season 1, Giant Size X-Men, Luke Cage, Rage, Black Panther</i>
15.		Examples on visual and discourse analysis	<p>Hall, Stuart. "The Spectacle of the Other", <i>Representation: Cultural representations and signifying practices</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 1997, pp. 225-257. Evans, J. and S. Hall. (eds), <i>Visual Culture: the Reader</i>. London, SAGE. 2005. (određeni dijelovi)</p>