

## Programa | Course Description 2020/2021

### Unidade Curricular | *Course Unit*

**História e Cultura dos EUA (Sécs. XX e XXI) | US History and Culture (20th-21st centuries)**

### ECTS | *Credits*

6 ECTS

### Ciclo de Estudos | *Degree*

1.º Ciclo | Undergraduate

### Semestre | *Semester*

2.º Semestre | Spring Semester

### Docente(s) | *Faculty*

Bernardo Manzoni Palmeirim

### Língua de ensino | *Language of instruction*

English

### Programa (na língua de ensino) | *Course description (in the language of instruction)*

The overall goal of this course is to trigger a deeper analysis and understanding of the continuities, shifts and complexities underlying American history and culture. We will travel through key events in US history, from 1900 to 2020, grouped into 12 historical eras. We will consider these 12 periods as expressed, questioned and put up for debate in a vast array of cultural manifestations such as literary texts, music, newspaper clippings, political declarations and legal documents, film and documentaries, radio and television, testimonies of ordinary Americans, YouTube phenomena and musical videoclips, illustration, paintings and photographs, dance and performance, conceptualist art and poetry, and maps. We will discuss the ways in which American cultural phenomena advocate (or wrangle with) ideologies, customs and beliefs, within shared (and divided) forms of American life.

THE PROGRESSIVE ERA, 1900-1916

WORLD WAR I, 1916-1920

THE TWENTIES, 1920-1932

THE NEW DEAL, 1932-1940

WORLD WAR II, 1941-1945

THE COLD WAR, 1945-1953

AFFLUENCE, 1953-1960

THE SIXTIES, 1960-1968

NEOCONSERVATISM, 1969-1988

GLOBALIZATION, 1989-2001

FROM 9/11 TO OBAMA, 2001-2016

POST-TRUTH, DIVISIONISM AND TRUMP, 2018-2020

### Avaliação (na língua de ensino) | *Grading and Assessment (in the language of instruction)*

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- Written test (35%)

- Research Project (total 45%):

Students may either:

- a. contrast and compare two significant events from any two of the 12 historical periods, or
- b. discuss the cultural (d)evolution of one major topic that traverses C20-21 American history, as seen in two of the opposing theoretical frameworks discussed in class.

The research project is comprised of 3 moments:

1. Abstract (5%): 250-word abstract of thesis idea and theoretical framework.
2. Essay (30%): 1,800 to 2,200-word original research essay
3. Oral Presentation (10%): 10-minute oral presentation on the subject matter of the written essay, followed by a class discussion.

(As this class is taught in English, oral presentations must be in English – content and communication will be more important than grammatical accuracy. Written assignments may be in English or Portuguese.)

- Active Attendance (20%): attendance and discussion of prescribed reading and general participation. Attendance without participation will not count.

### **Bibliografia (selection) | Bibliography (selection)**

Lepore, Jill. *These Truths: A History of the United States*. New York: Norton, 2018.

Lauter, Paul. *A Companion to American Literature and Culture*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

McDonald, Gail. *American Literature and Culture, 1900-1960*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2007.

Levine, Robert S. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Ninth ed. Vol. C-E. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2017.

Bigsby, C W E., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern American Culture*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge UP, 2006.