

Załącznik Nr 1 do Uchwały nr 24/2019 Rady Wydziału Nauk Humanistycznych i Społecznych z dnia 13.03.2019 r.

Zagadnienia na egzamin dyplomowy (licencjacki) – literatura i kultura USA

1. To what extent does the Puritan doctrine of predestination, as highlighted in J. Edwards's „Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”, refer to the contemporary American experience?
2. To what extent could you agree that the „homespun” quality of A. Bradstreet's selected poems relates to the ethos of American Puritanism?
3. To what extent can you consider B. Franklin's concepts of progress „from rags to riches” and of „self-made man” as the timeless foundations of American culture?
4. How can you comment on the affinities between main ideas of American Enlightenment, as highlighted in Th. Jefferson's „Declaration of Independence” or in B. Franklin's „Autobiography”, and the economic and sociopolitical changes in the post-communist countries in Europe?
5. What are the reasons to consider Edgar Allan Poe as a model representative of Romantic decadence – and, simultaneously, as the announcer of the pathologies and anxieties of the 20th century?
6. What are the main ideas of American transcendentalism, as presented in R. W. Emerson's „Nature” and „Self-Reliance”, and what practical applications of these ideas in American reality until the contemporary times can you distinguish?
7. What are the reasons to see H. D. Thoreau as the forefather of the civil rights movement and its leaders, such as Martin Luther King?
8. How can you prove that M. Twain's „Huck Finn” may be legitimately considered as an initial – utopian? – project for the America of black-and-white harmony?
9. How can you discuss Stephen Crane's version of naturalism as a prefiguration of existential fears of a 20th/21st century man?
10. To what extent could you agree that Walt Whitman's free verse effectively mirrors the American Dream (American experience)?
11. What are the possible reasons to see E. Dickinson's poetry as a set of sceptical notes on the margin of American Dream?
12. What are the aspects of the decline of American Dream in the 20th century, as presented in the works by F. Scott Fitzgerald, J. Steinbeck or A. Miller?
13. What is E. Hemingway's classic perspective upon the American „Lost Generation” and how does it relate to the latter's parallel in the Beat Generation?
14. How can you prove that social indifference has been a major problem of the urban America since the mid-20th century, taking into account the poetry of W. C. Williams or E. F. Albee's play „The Zoo Story”?

15. How can you explain the background and discuss the symptoms of Polish-Jewish emigre's uneasy rapport with American reality, as exemplified by Eva Hoffman's „Lost in Translation“?
16. How can the specific nature of Latino-American version of American Dream, in the stories by S. Cisneros or O. Hijuelos be explained?
17. What are the identity problems of African-Americans and attempts at solving them: from R. W. Ellison's selected works of fiction to James Brown's life as captured in his biography by James Mc Bride, or even careers of rap performers, such as Kanye West?
18. To what extent may the Hippie counterculture of the 1960s be regarded as a failed post-transcendentalist attempt at American Paradise Regained?