

**ENU22003: US American Identities MT 2024/25**  
**SF (5 ECTS)**

**Convenor: Bernice M. Murphy**

This module examines modern and contemporary US writing in a variety of genres, interrogating the changing ideas of national literature and exploring the emergence of a variety of voices laying claim to being American. Texts will be drawn from the main genres of prose fiction, drama and poetry.

**Weekly Lecture Schedule**

- 1: Introduction: America and Identity (Bernice M. Murphy)
2. Selected poems of Robert Frost and Marianne Moore (Philip Coleman)
3. *The Great Gatsby* (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Kevin Power)
4. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1938) by Zora Neale Hurston (Dara Downey)
5. *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (1962) by Shirley Jackson (BM)
6. The poetry of Allen Ginsberg and Adrienne Rich (PC)
7. READING WEEK
8. 'The White Album' (1968-78) and 'Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream' (1966) by Joan Didion (BM)
9. *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko (1977) (PC)
10. *The Road* (2006) by Cormac McCarthy (KP)
11. *The Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen (2017) (PC)
12. *Get Out* directed by Jordan Peele (Film, 2017) (BM)

**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Demonstrate detailed understanding of the origins, development and range of modern U.S. literature
- Show awareness of the social and historical contexts of literary production
- Engage critically with a range of genres
- Demonstrate close knowledge of key influential and characteristic US texts
- Show understanding of various American genres and literary movements

- Reflect critically on how gender, race and sexual orientation have shaped literary production and are represented in key texts

**Assessment:** Examination (100%)