# COURSE DETAIL

## AMERICA AND THE WORLD: READING AMERICAN LITERATURE TRANSNATIONALLY AND GLOBALIZATION, THE US SOUTH, AND NEW SOUTHERN STUDIES

**Country**
Denmark

**Host Institution**
University of Copenhagen

**Program(s)**
University of Copenhagen

**UCEAP Course Level**
Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**
English

**UCEAP Course Number**
114

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

**UCEAP Official Title**
AMERICA AND THE WORLD: READING AMERICAN LITERATURE TRANSNATIONALLY AND GLOBALIZATION, THE US SOUTH, AND NEW SOUTHERN STUDIES

**UCEAP Transcript Title**
AMERICA & THE WORLD

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

12.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**
8.00

**Course Description**
The first part of the course looks at American literature in its international contexts, thinking about the ways that this writing has been defined against, and as part of, the world. Questions covered in the class include: What is the so-called transnational turn in American studies, and how has it changed the way we read American literature? How do the local and the global interact in literary texts? How do texts “move” in the world, either through transnational characters and settings, or the international dissemination and translation of texts? The course spans early nationalist movements in defining a canon of literature in the nineteenth century, the literatures of immigrant groups in the late nineteenth-century, expatriate writers in the early twentieth century, and contemporary transnational writing by authors with roots across cultures. Students also take local and global works into context, considering the reception of American texts in Europe, and Scandinavian-American literary exchanges. The second part of the course considers recent cultural texts that respond to and represent the U.S. South's relationship to contemporary globalization—and relatedly, the region's complex relationship to the nation. The course discusses texts—novels, non-fiction writing, documentary, film, and music—that have focused on the ways in which economic globalization and its demographic corollary, immigration, have challenged and transformed traditional understandings of U.S. southern identity (as a distinctive region within the United States; as characterized by a rooted “sense of place”; as structured around a rigid black-white racial dichotomy, etc.). By reading a range of primary texts produced by native southerners, non-southern Americans, and immigrants, the course maps the changing terrain of the U.S. South as it has been reshaped by an influx (and exodus) of global capital, and by the arrival of immigrants from around the world. Students consider, among other things, how globalization and immigration may or may not have transformed not only regional identity, but also whether it is plausible to situate (as some scholars have) the U.S. South as simultaneously part of the “Global South” and “Global North.” The course locates the selected primary texts in relation

to and dialogue with recent critical and theoretical work in U.S. southern studies, especially the “New Southern Studies” (2001-present). Among this secondary reading are excerpts from WHERE THE NEW WORLD IS: LITERATURE ABOUT THE U.S. SOUTH AT GLOBAL SCALES (2018).

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
HENK00064U

**Host Institution Course Title**
AMERICA AND THE WORLD: READING AMERICAN LITERATURE TRANSNATIONALLY AND GLOBALIZATION, THE US SOUTH AND NEW SOUTHERN STUDIES

**Host Institution Course Details**

**Host Institution Campus**
Humanities

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**
English, Germanic and Romance Studies

**Course Last Reviewed**

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