**Hana Ulmanová (1967)** is a senior lecturer in American literature at Charles University. She studied Czech and English and American language and literature both in Olomouc and in Prague, where she earned her PhD (1995). She also received an M.A. in American civilization from George Washington University (1992). Next to Czech and English, she speaks Russian, German, French, Spanish and elementary Yiddish and Hebrew.

Ulmanová’s chief areas of expertise are contemporary American literature, American Jewish literature and literature of the American South. In those fields, she has offered several advanced classes and supervised numerous M.A. theses and PhD. dissertations. In the academic year 1997-98, she was a Fulbright scholar at NYU in New York City, researching contemporary prose, and she attended quite a few conferences and workshops (such as Salzburg Seminars or CEU summer programme in Budapest).

Ulmanová is a regular contributor to MFDnes, the most widely read serious Czech newspaper, and the prestigious political and cultural weekly Respekt. She has written close to 100 book reviews and essays and conducted interviews with leading American literary figures (e.g. Arthur Miller, William Styron, Edward Albee or Gore Vidal). She is a translator, too: her main works include short stories by Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty, Arthur Miller, Bernard Malamud and Isaac B. Singer, Nicole Krauss’s The History of Love and Ambrose Bierce’s The Devil’s Dictionary, but she has done also poetry (Emily Dickinson) and drama (David Ives).

Course schedule time: Mo 10.30 – 11.50 am, We 10.30 – 11.50 am

Spring! TERM 2010 – DR. HANA ULMANOVÁ, M.A.

AMERICAN LITERATURE – EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

TEXTBOOK
The Norton Anthology of American Literature, volume 2, fifth edition (Nina Baym, ed.). While there are readers at the library, the students are encouraged to have their own books (so that they can read more, underline certain passages, make a few notes in the text, etc.).

DESCRIPTION
This class is devoted not only to „close reading“ of the selected texts, but also to relevant broader issues (as indicated in Outline). While the approach and methods are interdisciplinary, the main emphasis is on literary theory (explaining and applying basic literary terms), literary history (both American and European), and literary criticism (analyzing different responses to given works). Every class starts with the oral presentation delivered by a student, then there is a minilecture by the teacher, and a discussion follows.

OBJECTIVES
The objective of this class is to study canonical works of American literature, stressing European perspectives. We shall not proceed chronologically, but focus on the individual topics listed below, and see how the individual works were translated and received in the Czech cultural context.

REQUIREMENTS
Although no prior experience with literary classes is required, the students must be willing to read, analyze and discuss all the assigned texts for every single class. Should we split the class due to a large number of students, it would be reasonable to divide the group into beginners and advanced.

OUTLINE
During the entire semester, the following topics will be covered (the numbers indicate the given weeks):

1/ THE RECEPTION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC /lecture/
2/ HENRY JAMES AND THE INTERNATIONAL THEME
Daisy Miller: A Study
Beast in the Jungle

3/ NATURALISM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Stephen Crane: The Blue Hotel

4/ THE 1920S IN AMERICA AND IN EUROPE
Ernest Hemingway: The Snows of Kilimanjaro

5/ AMERICAN /AND EUROPEAN/ MODERNISM IN PROSE
William Faulkner: As I Lay Dying

6/ AMERICAN /AND EUROPEAN/ MODERNISM IN POETRY
Wallace Stevens
Ezra Pound
E.E. Cummings
T.S. Eliot

7/ THE IDEA OF THE AMERICAN WEST
Bret Harte: The Outcasts of Poker Flat

8/ THE IDEA OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH
Flannery O’Connor: Good Country People
Eudora Welty: Petrified Man
Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire

9/ THE IDEA OF AN AMERICAN JEW
Bernard Malamud: The Magic Barrel
Philip Roth: Defender of the Faith

10/ THE IDEA OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN
Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man /Prologue, Chapter I/
Amiri Baraka
Michael S. Harper

11/ THE IDEA OF AN AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS
Arthur Miller: Death of a Salesman
John Updike: Separating

12/ THE IDEA OF AN AMERICAN WOMAN
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper
Adrienne Rich
Sylvia Plath

13/ THE IDEA OF AN ETHNIC WOMAN
Alice Walker: Everyday Use
Audre Lorde

14/ POSTMODERN LITERATURE
Thomas Pynchon: Entropy

ASSESSMENT
Next to regular attendance (only one class may be missed without a proper excuse) and active participation, a substantial oral presentation, a mid-term written paper about 10 pages long (while the topic is chosen by the student, it must be relevant to the work done during the semester, and approved by the teacher), and a final in-class essay.

GRADING POLICY
Regular attendance and active participation - 25% of your final grade
A substantial oral presentation - 25% of your final grade
Mid-term paper - 25% of your final grade
Final in-class essay - 25% of your final grade

OFFICE HOURS
By appointment

Film, když není v hodině: Crimes of the Heart / Bruce Beresford; 10221 DVD 270