

Subject card

Subject name and code	Esoteric traditions in European culture of the 19th and 20th centuries, PG_00178363						
Field of study	Chinese Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject			2025/2026	
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group			Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery			at the university	
Year of study	1		Language of instruction			Polish Polish	
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits			2.0	
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form			credit	
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Monika Rzeczycka				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
	Additional information: Conversation lecture						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to familiarise students with selected esoteric traditions as a cultural phenomenon of the 19th and 20th centuries; their specificity and role in shaping Western culture and their connections with selected currents of spirituality characteristic of Central and East Asia, as well as selected methods of research on Western esotericism.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SINL3_W03] Knows and understands, at an advanced level, the methodologies, theories, and terminology that constitute the fundamental general knowledge in the field of the humanities and related disciplines.	The student knows and understands to an advanced extent selected methods of research on Western esotericism, including a religious studies perspective, a cultural studies perspective and a perspective based on Arthur Lovejoy's concept of the history of ideas. The knowledge acquired relates to the history of the emergence of the most important methodological schools, selected terminology, issues related to the interdisciplinary relations of the study of Western esotericism with various disciplines of the humanities, such as literary studies, history, philosophy, cultural and religious studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[SINL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge acquired during Sinology studies and the content corresponding to that knowledge.	The student is able to identify selected ideas and concepts related to Chinese spiritual culture that show similarities to selected processes characteristic of European esoteric traditions.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[SINL3_U05] Is able to present various opinions and positions in both oral and written form, evaluate them, and engage in discussion.	Students will be able to characterise selected modern European esoteric traditions and selected research positions related to these traditions. He presents his opinions orally, e.g. during discussions or in prepared statements within the framework of research tasks indicated by the teacher, and in written form, during partial colloquia and as part of a written test paper.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SINL3_U08] Is able to plan and organize work both individually and as part of a team.	The student takes part in the work of a 2-3 person research team, i.e. participates in the joint planning and organisation and subsequent realisation of the team's talk on a selected modern European esoteric tradition.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
Subject contents	Esotericism as a cultural phenomenon. Western esotericism as a subject of academic study. Secret societies, secret sciences and esoteric traditions in Europe. Esoteric amplification in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Fascination with Eastern spirituality. The theosophical revolution. Yoga. Esoteric projects of the New Era. Esotericism and literature, Esotericism in the circle of arts. Esotericism, popular culture and mass art.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of Polish and English (in relation to the subject literature)		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	active presence	80.0%	5.0%
	written or oral colloquium	51.0%	50.0%
	term paper/presentation	51.0%	45.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Faivre A., Access to Western Esotericism, Albany 1994. Faivre A., Theosophy, Imagination, Tradition. Studies in Western Esotericism, transl. C. Rhone, Albany 2000. Hanegraaff W.J, Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism, Boston-Leiden Boston 2006 Hanegraaff W.J, Western Esotericism. A Guide for the Perplexed, New York 2013. Seria Światło i ciemność, t.1-8, Gdańsk 2001-2017. Edycja Polskie tradycje ezoteryczne 1890-1939, t. 1-5, Gdańsk 2019-2021 Rzeczycka M., Wtajemniczenie. Rosyjska proza ezoteryczna końca XIX początku XX wieku, Gdańsk 2010. Klimowicz T., Poszukujący, nawiedzeni, opętani. Z dziejów spirytyzmu i okultyzmu w literaturze rosyjskiej, Wrocław 1992 Braude A., Radical Spirits. Spiritualism and Womens Rights in Nineteenth-Century America, Indiana 2001
	Supplementary literature	An up-to-date reading list and supporting literature is given to students in the first class.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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