University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	National identities of Slavic peoples, PG_00179468		
Field of study	Ethnology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	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	2	Language of instruction	Polish Polish language
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Institute of Anthropology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	mgr Mikołaj Jarmakowski	
	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

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	20.0	52

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to reflect together on selected issuesof the problems of modern Slavic national identities: the processes of their formation, theoretical sources of their discourses, their practical and social side, historical contexts, their significance in the process of understanding contemporary cultural, social and political phenomena in Europe and the world. The basic aim of the course is to enable participants to move freely on the ethnic map of modern and contemporary Slavdom, with the possibility of understanding the factors influencing its historical shape and contemporary image. A broad approach to identity is undertaken: as a specific type of social practice that can be studied both diachronically and synchronically, related to the meanings of specific cultural contents (identity programs, literary texts, folklore, other areas of symbolic culture), will allow for including in the scope of reflection also those areas that classically remain outside the horizon of cultural anthropology (literature, lexis), and whose analysis through the prism of its methods can be an important cognitive activity. Therefore, it is important to analyse a specific amount of subject knowledge (content) and above all to problematise it from the perspective of anthropological theory (R. Wagner, F. Barth, B. Jovanović, M. Sahlins).

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ETNOL3_U03] Is able to read with comprehension professional texts in a foreign language of their choice, enabling them to acquire additional professional knowledge	Student has a basic knowledge of the history of Slavic nations and their culture, which allows him or her to consciously use scientific studies and sources relevant to this subject.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ETNOL3_K02] Is open to new ideas and ready to reformulate their position	Student has the ability to problematize research issues and is therefore able to critically evaluate specific information resources.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[ETNOL3_W05] Knows and understands the links between ethnology and cultural anthropology and other humanities and social sciences: cultural studies, philosophy, history, archaeology, sociology	Student, noticing the broad application of anthropological theory and the complexity of the issue of Slavic national identity, is able to creatively apply its methods in the context of studies on various cultural phenomena, including those classically belonging to fields of research other than anthropology.	[SW5] implementation of a problem task
[ETNOL3_U04] Uses information technology, multimedia, and Internet resources; is able to critically evaluate and process Internet resources	The student has competences in the analysis of media information and its entanglement in identity and nationality discourses and narratives	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ETNOL3_U01] Independently acquires and consolidates knowledge in an orderly and systematic manner using modern techniques of acquiring, classifying, and analysing information	Having studied the basic literature on the subject, the student is able to independently attempt to analyse and study issues related to the problems of national identities in Slavic lands.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ETNOL3_K01] Knows the extent of their knowledge and skills, organises their work effectively, and critically evaluates the extent to which it has progressed	Student has basic material and content knowledge that allows him or her to freely move around the ethnic map of ancient and contemporary Slavs, make simple syntheses and problematizations, draw conclusions and predictions.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ETNOL3_U05] Is able to use the main theoretical approaches, research paradigms, and concepts in ethnology and cultural anthropology	Student has the ability to problematize identity phenomena in the Slavic world and notices the connections between specific judgments about them and specific research perspectives.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[ETNOL3_W08] Knows and understands the methods of analysis and interpretation of various cultural products appropriate for different schools in ethnology and cultural anthropology	Student is able to apply the theories and methods of cultural anthropology to research on Slavic national identities, as well as to recognize the significance of these in the context of related sciences (literary studies, philology, sociology) in whose reflection the indicated topic is found.	[SW5] implementation of a problem task
[ETNOL3_W11] Knows and understands basic principles of creation and development of various forms of entrepreneurship	Student recognizes the political and social importance of the phenomenon of identity, both within given Slavic nations and groups and in the relations between them and beyond them.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[ETNOL3_W12] Has knowledge of cultural institutions, their significance in the transmission, maintenance, and creation of cultural values; is up-to-date with contemporary cultural life	Student has basic knowledge of the processes of forming national identities in Slavic lands, the sources of these identities and their transformations and impacts over time.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[ETNOL3_K08] Recognises and respects differences in viewpoints determined by different national and cultural backgrounds	Student has basic knowledge of the cultural and identity diversity of contemporary and ancient Slavs, is able to perceive different points of view and perspectives within them.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents	The topics of the course are divided into five parts, which together form the whole subject. The first part will be devoted to issues and problems of studying identity as a social phenomenon within the framework created by cultural anthropology. The second part will analyze the historical conditions of shaping the Slavs' ideas about themselves as a community from the early Middle Ages to the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, focusing in particular on the typologies of Slavia latina - Slavia orthodoxa (R. Picchio, S. Graciotti) and the "tripartite" sources of Slavic folk culture understood as an autonomous creation (N.I. Tolstoy, B. Jovanović). The third part will problematize modern national programs that gave rise to modern forms of Slavic identity. The programs and visions of the nation created at that time and their social impact in various areas of Slavic societies will be discussed. We will focus in particular on Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Serbian identity programs, the impact of which will prove to be particularly strong to this day. The fourth part will be devoted to contemporary identity phenomena in the Slavic area: problems of post-Soviet identity in Russia and new ideas of Russian imperialism, the identity conflict of Belarusians and its impact on the current political situation in this country, conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and the issue of the identity of Russian-speaking areas of Ukraine.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Attendance at classes	90.0%	20.0%
Activity	70.0%	30.0%
Final presentation	60.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	M. Bobrownicka (1995). *Narkotyk mitu. Szkice o świadomości narodowej i kulturowej Słowian Zachodnich i Południowych*. Warszawa: Universitas. M. Bobrownicka (2001). *Pogranicza w centrum Europy. Slavica.* Warszawa: Universitas. J. Wygnańska (2020). *Oswajając bałkańskie demony. Rzecz o Serbii. Dyskursywne konstruowanie serbskiej tożsamości narodowej*. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego. R. Wagner (1977). *The Invention of Culture.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press (fragmenty).
Supplementary literature	F. Barth (1998). *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference.* Illionis: Waveland Press. J. Bartmiński (red.) (2015 2024). *Leksykon aksjologiczny Słowian i ich sąsiadów. T. 1 7.* Lublin Warszawa: LublinWarszawa: Instytut Slawistyki PAN, Fundacja Slawistyczna & Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej. M. Rudaś-Grodzka (2013). *Sfinks słowiański i mumia polska.* Warszawa: Instytut Badań Literackich PAN. M. Janion (2007). *Niesamowita Słowiańszczyzna: fantazmaty literatury*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie. M. Bobrownicka (2006). *Patologie tożsamości narodowej w postkomunistycznych krajach słowiańskich*. Warszawa: Universitas.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The course is passed on the basis of: a) attendance at classes; b) active participation in classes (reading assigned texts, participating in discussions); c) project and presentation for the credit. The form of credit is a presentation prepared in groups of 2-3 people, which will be a summary of the research project carried out within the scope of the classes. Possible projects will be based on ethnographic field research among Slavic minorities in Poland (Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Serbs - contacts at the instructor's disposal), as well as analysis of specific materials, in each case using a problem-based method based on anthropological theory. Example topics of credit projects: - Ambiguity of the concept of Slavicness in modern Polish identity programs; - Transformations of the content of folk culture in modern and contemporary Slavic identity practices; - Identity and practices of Slavic minorities in Poland (Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Serbs); - The image of Poland and Poles in the discourses and practices of Slavic minorities in Poland (Ukrainians, Belarusians, Russians, Serbs); - New identities of Slavism after the fall of the communist bloc; - Slava latina / Slavia orthodoxa and the category of foreignness in anthropological theory: sources and contemporary state based on research; - To Europe yes, but... Oriental Slavism as a part of Western European identity in the face of the vision of Europe (Western) in Slavic identities; - The issue of Pan-Slavism, its sources, impact in the history of Slavic nations, contemporary presence; - Is Slavic messianism still alive?
Work placement	Not applicable

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