University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	WPiA - Law and Literature: What Can Literature Teach Us About Justice?, PG_00179130		
Field of study	History		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English English
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Tomasz Snarski	
	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: 30.0

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	0.0	20.0	50

Subject objectives

This course will explore the intersection between law and literature. Literature is important for understanding law because it teaches a certain way of thinking -- one that is synthetic, creative, and comfortable with ambiguity and ambivalence. Each class will explore one or more interrelated topics through a variety of literary and philosophical works of short to moderate length.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	After completion of the course the student will be able to: 1) summarize and classify definitions of literary and legal terms, 2) encourage to think critically about the limitations of legal systems, and the ways in which literature articulates both the capacities and incapacities of the law as it is practiced and as it might be practiced, 3) evaluate the contribution of the field of law and literature to the intersection of humanitites and social sciences, 4) introduce to a range of different theoretical approaches to reading literature, law and literary text side by side.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task

<table>
<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>What is philosophy of law and aesthetics of law? "Law and literature" as a contemporary part of legal philosophy (basic concepts, genesis and perspectives).

Introduction, Literary Texts as Legal Texts. Legal themes in literature.

The Literary Indictment of Legal Injustice, Law and the Literary Imagination.

Legal Texts as Literary Texts, Interpreting Contracts, Statutes, and Constitutions.

Law, Justice, and morality: Law and Morality in literature.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td>no</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td><table><tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>0.0%</td><td>0.0%</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td><table><tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>1. K. Zeidler, Aesthetics of Law, Gdańsk-Warszawa 2020.

2 .R. A. Posner, Law and Literature (2d ed. 1998).

3. G. Anastaplo, Law & Literature and Shakespeare: Explorations, 26 Okla. City. U. L. Rev.

4. M. C. Nussbaum, Hiding from humanity: disgust, shame, and the law, 2004.

5. Hu Chun-Xi, Law and Literature: Exploring the Intersection of Two Fields, Journal of Literature and Art Studies, March 2023, Vol. 13, No. 3, 170-177 doi: 10.17265/2159-5836/2023.03.007

6. M. Nussbaum, Equity and Mercy, Philosophy & Public Affairs , Spring, 1993, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Spring, 1993), pp. 83- 125.

7. J. Kamień, Prawo i literatura jako kierunek filozoficznoprawny, Gdańsk-Warszawa 2024.</td></tr><tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>no</td></tr><tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td>Aesthetics of Law

Legal Themes in the Literature

Themes of Crime, Punishment, Guilt, Justice, and Mercy in Literature

Famous Writers - Lawyers

Emotions and Law</td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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