

## Subject card

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Subject name and code                       | Contemporary Literary Theories, PG_00137821                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |
| Field of study                              | English Studies                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |
| Date of commencement of studies             | October 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          | Academic year of realisation of subject |                                     | 2026/2027                                                                                                            |            |     |
| Education level                             | Master's studies                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                          | Subject group                           |                                     | Obligatory subject group in the field of study<br>Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study |            |     |
| Mode of study                               | full-time studies                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          | Mode of delivery                        |                                     | at the university                                                                                                    |            |     |
| Year of study                               | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          | Language of instruction                 |                                     | English                                                                                                              |            |     |
| Semester of study                           | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          | ECTS credits                            |                                     | 3.0                                                                                                                  |            |     |
| Learning profile                            | academic                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                          | Assessment form                         |                                     | exam                                                                                                                 |            |     |
| Conducting unit                             | Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)    | Subject supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                          | dr Marina Ragachewskaya                 |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |
|                                             | 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                                 |                                                                                                                      | 43.0       | 75  |
| Subject objectives                          | The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the role of contemporary literary theories in the humanities and to prepare students to efficiently use the basic concepts characteristic of humanistic thought. |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                                                                                                                      |            |     |

| Learning outcomes               | Course outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Subject outcome                                                                                                                                                     | Method of verification                                                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 | [FAMU2_U06] Can communicate in speech and writing in English and Polish with diverse audiences on specialized topics in the field of linguistics and literature, also using advanced specialized terminology.                                                                                                                                                                                   | is able to communicate with a diverse audience on specialist topics in the field of literary theory using advanced specialist terminology.                          | [SU3] text preparation/written work<br>[SU4] test/exam - oral or written |
|                                 | [FAMU2_W06] Knows and understands advanced terminology in the field of literary studies, in particular those used in the study of English-language literature.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Knows and understands advanced terminology in the field of contemporary literary theories, in particular as it applies to the study of English-language literature. | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written<br>[SW3] text preparation/written work |
|                                 | [FAMU2_W10] Knows and understands to an in-depth extent the advanced methods of analysis and interpretation relevant to English-language literature.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Knows and understands the main development trends among contemporary literary theories.                                                                             | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written<br>[SW3] text preparation/written work |
|                                 | [FAMU2_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the extent of their knowledge and skills, in particular in the field of English-language linguistics and literature and English.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | is ready to critically assess the scope of his/her knowledge and skills in the field of contemporary literary theories.                                             | [SK3] text preparation/written work<br>[SK4] test/exam - oral or written |
|                                 | [FAMU2_W04] Knows and understands in depth advanced research methodologies and theories in the field of literary studies relevant to the study of English-language literature.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Knows and understands in-depth advanced contemporary research methodologies and contemporary literary theories.                                                     | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written<br>[SW3] text preparation/written work |
|                                 | [FAMU2_W02] Knows and understands in depth selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of literature and English-language literature.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Knows and understands in-depth selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of contemporary literary theories.                              | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written<br>[SW3] text preparation/written work |
| Subject contents                | <p>1. Why do we need literary theories?</p> <p>2. How do we read? Reading styles and capitalism?</p> <p>3. Szklowski's formalist theories. Defamiliarization.</p> <p>4. Narrative theories: event, eventfulness, chronology, rhetorical theory of narrative.</p> <p>5. Reader response theories.</p> <p>6. Feminist theories.</p> <p>7. Multiculturalism.</p> <p>8. Other critical schools.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| Prerequisites and co-requisites | <p>Expected linguistic competence at C1/C2 level.</p> <p>Attendance at all classes is compulsory, unless the student has obtained the Dean's permission to follow an individual study plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |

| Assessment methods and criteria | Subject passing criteria   | Passing threshold                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Percentage of the final grade |
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|                                 | Essay                      | 51.0%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 50.0%                         |
|                                 | Written / oral examination | 51.0%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 50.0%                         |
| Recommended reading             | Basic literature           | <p>Modern Literary Theory. A Comparative Introduction. Ed by Ann Jefferson and David Robey. Billing &amp; Sons Limited. London 1982.</p> <p>Ed. Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, Peter Brooker, A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory, Pearson Longman 2005.</p> <p>Anna Burzyńska, Michał Paweł Markowski, Teorie Literatury XX wieku. Podręcznik, Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków 2006.</p> <p>Peter Barry, Beginning Theory. An Introduction to literary and cultural theory, Manchester University Press, 2002.</p> <p>Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan (eds). Literary Theory. An Anthology. Blackwell Publishing Ltd 2004.</p> <p>Teorie literatury XX w. Antologia pod red Anny Burzyńskiej i Michała Pawła Markowskiego. Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków 2006.</p> <p>Patricia Waugh, Literary Theory and Criticism. An Oxford Guide, Oxford University Press 2006.</p> <p>The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism vol. 8 ed by Raman Selden. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge 1995.</p> <p>Modern Literary Theory. A Comparative Introduction ch. 1 Russian Formalism.</p> |                               |
|                                 | Supplementary literature   | <p>Gerald Prince, Dictionary of Narratology, University of Nebraska press, Lincoln &amp; London 1989.</p> <p>Gerard Genette, Mood in: ed. Mieke Bal, Narrative Theory. Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies, Routledge, London and New York 2007.</p> <p>H. Porter Abbott, The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative, second edition, Cambridge University Press 2008.</p> <p>Umberto Eco, Introduction. The Role of the Reader. The Role of the Reader, Indiana University Press 1984.</p> <p>Umberto Eco, Interpretation and Overinterpretation, ed. by Stefan Collini: Cambridge University Press 1992.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |
|                                 | eResources addresses       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                               |

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| <p>Example issues/<br/>example questions/<br/>tasks being completed</p> | <p>In what sense can literary theory be said to produce meaning rather than merely discover it?</p> <p>Close reading vs. distant reading.</p> <p>How might contemporary forms of capitalism (publishing industry, social media, streaming) shape the way we read and what we consider “worth reading”?</p> <p>Art as technique: making the familiar strange.</p> <p>Stylistic devices that produce defamiliarisation (syntax, rhythm, metaphor, narrative perspective).</p> <p>Limits of defamiliarisation: when does estrangement become mere obscurity?</p> <p>Story vs. plot; chronological order vs. narrative order.</p> <p>What counts as an “event” and what makes an event “eventful”?</p> <p>Rhetorical approaches: how narrators guide readers to assign significance.</p> <p>How do disruptions of chronology (analepsis, prolepsis, fragmentation) affect readers' sense of eventfulness?</p> <p>Role of the reader in constructing meaning (Iser, Jauss, Fish).</p> <p>Implied reader vs. actual reader; interpretive communities.</p> <p>Affective response and the politics of reading.</p> <p>How might different “interpretive communities” produce radically different readings of the same text?</p> <p>Gender, power, and representation in literature.</p> <p>The female voice, silence, and narrative authority.</p> <p>Postcolonial literature and questions of identity, hybridity, and diaspora.</p> <p>Canon formation: whose voices are included/excluded?</p> <p>Multiculturalism vs. globalisation: tensions and overlaps.</p> <p>Queer theory, ecocriticism, new historicism, psychoanalysis, disability studies, etc.</p> <p>How different schools ask different questions of the same text.</p> <p>Combining methods: strengths and tensions in interdisciplinary approaches.</p> |
| <p>Work placement</p>                                                   | <p>Not applicable</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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