

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to cultural studies - lecture I, PG_00185582						
Field of study	Wstęp do kulturoznawstwa - wykład I						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study 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		Polish		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Division of Culture Studies -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Magdalena Sacha				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15		2.0		58.0	75
Subject objectives	The purpose of the "Introduction to Cultural Studies" lecture is to acquaint students with the key issues that are central to both historical and modern debates in cultural studies and cultural anthropology. It encompasses the development of cultural concepts and demonstrates how culture is intertwined with contemporary societies. The lecture acts as a theoretical counterpart to practical exercises in cultural studies, guiding students towards theoretical matters, such as the contributions of scholars and the academic underpinnings of the field.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[KULL3_K04] They are prepared to address issues related to the practice of a cultural studies professional in a proper, responsible, and ethical manner.	The student is able to correctly, responsibly and ethically analyze and resolve problems related to the profession of a cultural studies specialist within the scope learned during the lecture Introduction to Cultural Studies.	[SK1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/dyskusja
	[KULL3_W03] They know and understand cultural studies terminology at an advanced level.	The student knows and understands the terminology in the field of cultural studies at a level appropriate to the scope of the introduction to cultural studies program.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
	[KULL3_K01] They are ready to critically evaluate his knowledge of culture and to recognize its value in solving cognitive and practical problems.	The student is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge he/she has about culture and recognize its value in solving cognitive and practical problems within the scope learned during the lecture on Introduction to Cultural Studies	[SK1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/dyskusja
	[KULL3_U02] They possess the skills necessary to conduct research on culture and to draw conclusions through the appropriate selection and use of theories, methods, and research tools of cultural studies, as well as advanced information and communication technologies.	The student has the skills to conduct research on culture and formulate conclusions thanks to the appropriate selection and use of theories, methods and research tools of cultural studies, as well as advanced information and communication techniques within the scope learned during the lecture "Introduction to Cultural Studies".	[SU8] obserwacja samodzielnej lub zespołowej pracy studenta
	[KULL3_U03] They are able to communicate using specialized terminology in the fields of cultural and religious studies, as well as the arts.	Students familiarize themselves with basic theoretical concepts in the field of cultural studies and art history, and are able to use these concepts both orally and in writing.	[SU4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
	[KULL3_W04] They have an advanced knowledge and understanding of methods for analyzing and interpreting various cultural texts.	Students organize the acquired knowledge about social, historical, and philosophical issues, which constitute a broad context for the foundations of cultural studies.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
	[KULL3_W01] They have advanced knowledge of the subject's specifics, the theories of cultural studies, and its place among the sciences of culture and religion.	Upon completion of the course, students have organized knowledge regarding the significance of cultural studies in the broader context of humanities and social sciences.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny [SW1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/dyskusja
Subject contents	The proposed lecture topics should draw on students' experiences and knowledge while also conveying theoretical knowledge. The order and themes of the lectures are determined by the lecturer each time, consulting with other lecturers conducting exercises. 1. Definition of the human in cultural terms. Culture versus nature. 2. What does culture mean? Development of definitions of culture from antiquity to contemporary anthropological definitions. Evaluative and descriptive definitions. 3. Fields of symbolic culture: religion, science, art, play. 4. Cultural studies as a scientific discipline. 5. Cultural valuation of space: sacred and profane spaces. The concept of proxemics. Centers and peripheries. 6. Cultural perception of time. Cyclical time and linear time. 7. Discourses of the body. Changes in attitudes towards the body in historical perspective.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Written or oral exam	90.0%	90.0%
	Active presence	10.0%	10.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Aleida Assman, Wprowadzenie do kulturoznawstwa. Podstawowe terminy, problemy, pytania, Poznań 2015. Wojciech J. Burszta, Antropologia kultury. Tematy, teorie, interpretacje, wyd. I, Poznań 1998. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, Małe miejsca, wielkie sprawy. Wprowadzenie do antropologii społecznej i kulturowej, Warszawa 2009. Pojęcia i problemy wiedzy o kulturze, red. A. Kłoskowska, Seria: Encyklopedia kultury polskiej, Wrocław 1991
	Supplementary literature	Antropologia kultury. Zagadnienia i wybór tekstów, red. Grzegorz Godlewski, Leszek Kolankiewicz, Andrzej Mencwel, Paweł Rodak, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2005 (i inne wydania)
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Please explain the origin (etymology) of the concept of culture and outline the difference between its original meaning in antiquity and its contemporary understanding. 2. Please explain the difference between evaluative and descriptive definitions of culture according to Aleida Assmann. Which understanding of culture among the six discussed is most convincing to you and why? 3. Please discuss the arguments presented in the conclusion of Waldemar Kuligowski's lecture on the concept of culture in defense of using the term "culture." How do you relate to these arguments? Do you believe that using the term "culture" is still justified, or should it be abandoned? 4. What does the anthropological encounter with Otherness entail? Considerations on the margins of the theses contained in Chapter 1 of Wojciech Burszty's "Anthropology of Culture." 5. The problematic relationship between NATURE - CULTURE. Considerations on the margins of the theses contained in Chapter 2 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture." 6. Please discuss Ruth Benedict's concept of cultural patterns. How can the use of Apollonian and Dionysian patterns be justified (or critically questioned) in studying indigenous tribes? 7. What is symbolic culture, and what subsystems of symbolic culture does Antonina Kłoskowska distinguish? 8. Understanding religion - what role does religion play in human societies? How does its instrumental and autotelic form manifest itself? 9. Please discuss Rudolf Otto's concept of the numinous. What advantages and disadvantages do you see in this concept? 10. "Homo religiosus" and the "sacrificial scapegoat" - two concepts by two eminent researchers. Please characterize them and discuss their applicability in interpreting the contemporary role of religion. 11. Please list three types of culture in a stratified society. Then choose one of the three types and characterize its origin, users, the most interesting forms of representation through art, everyday life, behavior. Are there remnants of the chosen type of traditional culture in contemporary mass culture? 12. The concept of ethos. Characteristics of the chivalric ethos and its remnants in contemporary Western culture. 13. Please discuss the most important characteristics of human language (description in Chapter 3 of Wojciech Burszty's "Anthropology of Culture"). Which characteristics do you think have contributed most significantly to the development of human cultures? 14. What hypotheses does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis propose (description in Chapter 3 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture")? Please discuss arguments for and against this hypothesis. 15. Please discuss the functions of language according to schemes proposed by linguists, anthropologists, and philosophers in the 20th century. 16. Propaganda language - historical development, characteristics, and contemporary threats. 17. Please discuss Arnold van Gennep's concept of les rites de passage (description in Chapter 5 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture"). Do we observe such rituals or their remnants in contemporary culture? 18. Cultural vision of death in Slavic culture, in Polish Romanticism, and today. What is the concept of "inverted death" in contemporary Western society (Ph. Aries)? 19. The concept of cyclical and linear time: how does the perception of time organize society, culture, and religion? What is the contemporary vision of "slow life"? 20. The concept of proxemics in relation to the organization of space in different cultures.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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