

Subject card

Subject name and code	Contemporary Literary Theories, PG_00137821						
Field of study	English Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2027		Academic year of realisation of subject		2027/2028		
Education level	Master'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		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_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 [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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 [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 [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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 [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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 [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[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 [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	1. Why do we need literary theories? 2. How do we read? Reading styles and capitalism? 3. Szklowski's formalist theories. Defamiliarization. 4. Narrative theories: event, eventfulness, chronology, rhetorical theory of narrative. 5. Reader response theories. 6. Feminist theories. 7. Multiculturalism. 8. Other critical schools.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Expected linguistic competence at C1/C2 level. Attendance at all classes is compulsory, unless the student has obtained the Dean's permission to follow an individual study plan.		

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

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

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