

SEMINARIUM LICENCJACKIE

ROK AKADEMICKI 2023/2024

FILOLOGIA ANGIELSKA

SPECJALNOŚCI:

KULTURA I LITERATURA ANGIELSKIEGO OBSZARU JĘZYKOWEGO

KULTURA-MEDIA-TRANSLACJA

Dr Nina Augustynowicz

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CONSUMING CULTURE

This interdisciplinary BA seminar will look at how we consume culture. Rather than focusing on a particular historical period, literary genre, or theoretical framework, the seminar encourages students to analyse compelling contemporary issues and engage in critical thinking about fiction, popular culture phenomena, and everyday practices. Students will be invited to reach across time (from the 19th century to the present) and across various texts and media (from high-brow literature to social media posts) in order to discover the cultural, social, political, economic and other contexts of lived experiences. In their diploma papers, students will be asked to address the complex intersections between human creativity and issues of sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, and class in order to examine how these factors influence the ways we consume and produce narratives, bodies, and identities.

The suggested list of topics includes, but is not limited to the following:

- consumption, consumerism, and sustainability in the age of global capitalism,
- food and identity, eating as a cultural practice, and new food trends,
- makeovers, body modifications, and the diet industry,
- feminism, femininities, and gender roles,
- contemporary social movements and activism,
- celebrity culture, stardom, and fame.

In addition to the above, the seminar also invites students interested in other areas, such as:

- literatures (poetry and prose) in English since the 19th century to the present,
- the Victorian period,
- critical approaches to television.

If you would like to consult me about your topic, I'm available in July (till 21.07) and in September (from 14.09).

Dr Marek Kulisz

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MODERN NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES

The seminar will be devoted to the study of selected modern (20th century) literary texts (short ones), e.g. Kafka, Borges, Lowry, Rilke, and Joyce. These will be supplemented by theoretical essays to show students how in practice they may use certain concepts and methods of literary analysis to write their own interpretations. The methods, though essentially literary, can also be successfully applied to the analysis of other cultural phenomena, such as film, commercials, advertisements, paintings, computer games, etc. Part of the seminar will also be devoted to discussions of selected practical logical issues which are indispensable in writing good theses. We will discuss the issues of structuring one's analysis, and talk about how to avoid the most common fallacies encountered in scholarly books and papers, such as excessive coherence, illusions of understanding, the abuses of expertise, etc.

Dr Marta Mamet-Michalkiewicz

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LITERATURE/CULTURE/TRANSLATION

The primary objective of this seminar is to encourage students to critically examine the enduring relevance of contemporary literary and cultural studies within the context of present-day discourses and power structures. By doing so, students will gain a deeper understanding of how these studies reflect the hopes and tensions prevalent in contemporary society.

The seminar extends an invitation to students interested in pursuing diploma papers focusing on contemporary fiction, particularly within the realm of new literatures in English. While the scope of exploration is broad, some key areas of interest include discourses surrounding race, gender, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. Moreover, the seminar welcomes investigations into the realms of postcolonialism and colonialism, examining the multifaceted narratives of the diaspora, encompassing themes of belonging, exile, home, and memory. Further, the seminar delves into the intersection of contemporary fiction and the body, exploring the complex relationships between narratives and corporeality.

While the aforementioned areas serve as focal points, the seminar also extends an open invitation to students interested in exploring other areas of study. This seminar invites diploma papers concerned with broadly understood contemporary fiction (new literatures in English) and/or its translation, including but not limited to:

- Discourses of race/gender/ethnicity/class/sexuality
- Discourses of postcolonialism and colonialism
- Contemporary fiction and the diaspora (belonging, exile, home, memory)
- Contemporary fiction and the body
- Translation as a cultural phenomenon
- Themes and tropes in translation studies
- Comparative translation studies
- Fairy-tales and storytelling

Dr Justyna Rusak

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The seminar is aimed at students interested in British and American literature who would like to explore and experiment with different interpretations of fiction, poetry and drama against the background of cultural studies. The intersection of literature and other aspects of culture (e.g. music, visual arts or philosophy) can become a starting point for a discussion on universal issues of human concern present in the analyzed works, namely: search for identity, meaning of life, self-discovery, faith, love and death. Psychological and sociological insight into literary interpretation can point at the implications of historical or biographical embeddedness of a textual work and the relationship with its author. Bearing this in mind, application of such interpretative methods of a literary text as psychoanalysis, feminism, biographical criticism, New Historicism or certain currents of existentialism can provide an added value to the creative discussion on selected works from the realm of British and American culture.

Suggested key topics, notions and fields of exploration:

- Body vs. spirit
- Femininity vs. masculinity
- Religious poetry and fiction
- Epiphany and metanoia – the journey motif

- Alienation, isolation and oppression – relationship with society
- The American Dream
- Essentialism vs. existentialism
- Cultural studies, psychoanalysis, biographical criticism, feminism, New Historicism
- Psychological realism
- Regionalism and literature of the American South
- Confessional poetry
- Morality and aesthetics
- Utopian and dystopian fiction
- Autobiographical writing and self-reflexive narrative

Dr Agnieszka Woźniakowska

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The seminar is addressed to students interested in American literature (and culture). As it is intended to be a literary seminar, the students' theses are expected to concentrate predominantly on works of fiction, poetry or drama. The preferred areas of study are American modernism (in literature and culture) and American drama (because of my own academic interests), but other areas of research may also be accepted. The seminar is not addressed to students interested in games.