

SEMINARIUM LICENCJACKIE
ROK AKADEMICKI 2025/2026
FILOLOGIA ANGIELSKA
KULTURA I LITERATURA ANGIELSKIEGO OBSZARU JĘZYKOWEGO
KULTURA-MEDIA-TRANSLACJA

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Consuming Culture

This interdisciplinary BA seminar explores how we consume and engage with culture in its many forms. Rather than focusing on a single historical period or genre, the seminar invites students to think critically about literature, media, popular culture, and everyday practices. We will look across time (from the nineteenth century to today) and across different texts and platforms (from novels to digital media) to consider how cultural, social, political, and economic forces shape lived experience. In their diploma projects, students will examine how issues such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class influence the ways we consume, circulate, and produce narratives, bodies, and identities.

Possible areas and topics include (but are not limited to):

- food and identity, eating as a cultural practice, and new food trends,
- consumption, consumerism, and sustainability in a global context,
- feminism, femininities, and gender roles in cultural texts,
- girlhood and the rise of girl cultures,
- celebrity culture, stardom, and fame,
- makeovers, body modifications, and the politics of appearance,
- literatures in English from the nineteenth century to the present,
- the Victorian period and its cultural legacies,
- critical approaches to television.

Note: while projects on popular culture are very welcome, they must adopt a critical and analytical approach. Topics about Disney princesses will not be accepted.

Dr Justyna Jajszczok

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This seminar is addressed to students interested in the theme of the apocalypse in literature and culture. While the primary focus of the seminar is the portrayal of various catastrophes, instances of destruction, motifs of invasion, extermination and extinction in British popular fiction of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, students are also welcome to explore other literary periods, genres and geographies and a variety of cultural texts which employ these themes.

In the course of the seminar, we will analyse crucial theoretical texts related to catastrophic fiction as well as case studies of the use of annihilation as a narrative device. In addition, questions of methodology, preliminary research, academic writing (with particular emphasis on signposting) and the use of AI will also be discussed in detail.

Suggested areas for BA projects include:

- Cosmic catastrophes
- Plagues, pandemics
- Natural and manufactured disasters
- Climate change
- Self-destructing humanity
- Societal collapse
- War and invasion
- Mad scientists

Dr Marta Mamet-Michalkiewicz, prof. UŚ

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LITERATURE/CULTURE/TRANSLATION

This seminar explores contemporary literary and cultural studies across a wide range of texts and media (books, films, translations, etc.), with a particular focus on the discourses of race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and class. We will consider how literature and culture remain deeply entangled with the power structures and debates of the present, reflecting and shaping the fears, hopes, and anxieties of modern society.

The aim of the seminar is to equip students with the tools to engage with these discourses critically and to recognize the enduring relevance of contemporary literary and cultural studies. By situating literary and cultural texts within current political, social, and intellectual contexts, students will gain insight into the role of literature and culture in negotiating issues of identity, belonging, and power.

A further dimension of this seminar is devoted to translation. Beyond its technical function of rendering texts from one language into another, translation is approached here as a cultural and political act that negotiates meaning across linguistic, historical, and ideological boundaries. We will examine translation as a site where questions of power, identity, and representation converge, paying attention to how translated texts both shape and are shaped by discourses of race, gender, class, and nation. Translation will also be considered in its aesthetic and theoretical dimensions, highlighting how it complicates notions of authorship, originality, and cultural belonging.

The seminar is particularly suited for students preparing diploma papers on contemporary fiction, especially within the realm of new literatures in English. Areas of exploration may include:

- Discourses of race / gender / ethnicity / class / sexuality
- Postcolonialism and colonialism
- Contemporary fiction and the diaspora (belonging, exile, home, memory)
- Contemporary fiction and the body
- Literary translation
- 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 Julia Szoltysek

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Proponowane seminarium dyplomowe koncentruje się wyłącznie na literaturze – przede wszystkim na współczesnej literaturze brytyjskiej, amerykańskiej i kanadyjskiej, w szczególności autorstwa kobiet i osób queer. W ramach zajęć studenci będą mogli przygotowywać prace licencjackie z wyżej wymienionej tematyki, jak również – po uzgodnieniu z prowadzącą – z zakresu literatury podróżniczej oraz kolonialnej i postkolonialnej, z dopuszczalnymi dodatkowymi elementami studiów filmoznawczych i kulturoznawczych.

Seminarium nie obejmuje propozycji prac poświęconych grom komputerowym, literaturze fantasy czy komiksom.

The proposed BA Seminar focuses exclusively on literature, in particular – on contemporary British, American and Canadian fiction, with special emphasis placed on works by women and queer persons. The seminar aims to assist students in preparing their BA theses on these topics. Other possible thesis themes may include travel literature and colonial and postcolonial fiction, with additional elements of film studies.

Theses devoted to games, gaming, game studies, fantasy literature or comics are not included in the scope of the seminar.

Dr Agata Wilczek

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Texts on the Move: Refugees and Migrants in Literature and Culture

This interdisciplinary BA seminar will explore how migrants and refugees have portrayed themselves and have been portrayed in literature, memoir, testimony, film, and art. Mindful of the current political crisis over refugees, the seminar will focus mainly on the post-45 years and contextualize the study of migrant and refugee art by reading widely from law, political and globalization theory, border studies, anthropology, history, and policy. The students will be encouraged to consider such themes as: historical upheaval and contexts of migration, the notion of physical and conceptual borders and their solidity or porousness, the relationship between self and homeland, the role of language and silence in understanding and representing identity, migrants and/versus refugees, mobility and rights, intergenerational trauma and memory, imaginative geography, race and ethnicity, globalization and multiculturalism, and the possibilities and limitations for hybrid or multiple identities that are worked out in the literature of migration.

This seminar is open to all students interested in thinking more about migration and the current refugee crisis. Please be ready to read widely and across disciplines, and to engage in other fields, for example the law, philosophy, and politics.

In addition to the above, the fields of research might include, but are not necessary limited to, the following issues:

- British/American literature and contemporary global challenges
- Space, place and literature
- Travel writing
- The problem of good and evil in British or American literature
- Post-secular discourse

Students interested in other areas of study are also welcome