

Wydział Filologiczny
Seminarium dyplomowe na rok akademicki 2025/26 – propozycja
Faculty of Philology
Undergraduate seminar for 2025-2026 academic year – proposal

SEMINAR GROUP: 1.N3.EP.69

Undergraduate proseminar

Dyscyplina/Field of study
Literaturoznawstwo / Literary Studies
Prowadzący / Supervisor
Dr Magdalena Mączyńska
Kierunek, stopień/ StudyProgramme, Major
English Philology, I stopień, niestacjonarny (BA part time)
Krótki opis / Short description
<p>Diploma seminar focus: On Monsters and Men – modern literature in search of morality</p> <p>Such questions as pertaining to the nature of evil, and the basis of morality for the modern world will be discussed. The seminar also focuses on the issue of individuals in extreme circumstances and tough choices they are forced to make in order to preserve their own integrity. In the first semester of this seminar, students explore the theoretical backgrounds of the issue of evil and its perception. Selected literary theories and critical approaches by such authors as Terry Eagleton, John Kekes, Adam Morton and others will be discussed. Additionally, the question of the ‘monstrous’ and its definition will be looked into.</p> <p>In the second semester, students learn how to interpret and critically evaluate modern literature that discusses evil in various guises. Then they pursue a research project related to given aspects of the aforementioned topics.</p> <p>Suggested topics for research include the perception and definition of evil, elements of morality and its sources in the modern world, and the question whether there are still unblemished heroes (and whether they are credible) in modern literature.</p> <p>Suggested methodology of research includes interdisciplinary approach (including philosophical, psychological, and religious studies’ texts pertaining to the topic) and essays devoted to the theme of evil in literature.</p> <p>Reading list – obligatory positions to read before joining the seminar: Marcus Zusak, <i>The Book Thief</i>; Claire Keegan, <i>Small things like this</i> / Sebastian Barry <i>Old God’s Time</i>; Patrick Ness, <i>A Monster Calls</i>.</p>