**Wydział Filologiczny**
**Seminarium magisterskie na cykl 2025- 2027 – propozycja**
**Faculty of Philology**
**Graduate seminar for 2025-2027 – proposal**

## PROSEMINAR 1

| Dyscyplina / Field of study |
|---|
| Literaturoznawstwo / Literary Studies |
| **Prowadzący / Supervisor** |
| Dr Sławomir Kuźnicki |
| **Kierunek, stopień / Study Programme, Major** |
| ENGLISH PHILOLOGY STACJONARNE/FULL TIME |
| **Krótki opis / Short description** |

MA Seminar focus/topic – three main fields of research:
1) various dimensions of dystopian, utopian, speculative, SF, cli-fi and post-apo literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries;
2) feminist, gender and queer literature of the 20th and 21st centuries;
3) literary and cultural contexts of rock music and popular culture.

MA Seminar description (what to expect):
Such questions as identity, gender, patriarchy, femininity, masculinity, sexuality, body, sexism, technology, ethnicity, racism, science, religion, power and ideology may be taken under scrutiny. Hence, the suggested topics for research include pursuit of gender/sexual identity, elements of feminisms, features of utopian/dystopian fiction.
These aforementioned three fields of research do not exclude other interesting contemporary phenomena, both literary and cultural, e.g. opiate epidemics in the USA, ethnic minorities in English-speaking countries, the genre of neo-western, gothic and horror fiction.

MA Seminar reading list (1-2 positions):
Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516);
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949).

**Candidates who did not study humanities at BA level, will need to approach an interview in which they will be asked to present their background knowledge of the following aspects of literary studies:**

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| LITERARY STUDIES |
|---|

**English novel between the wars (1920-1940).**
- What are the main trends in the history of the English novel between the wars?
- Who are the main English novelists between the wars?
- What are the main characteristics of the English novel between the wars?

**Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain.**
- What were the origins of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain?
- What are the main characteristics of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain?
- Who are the main representatives of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain?

**Literature of the Lost Generation.**
- What were the origins of the Lost Generation movement?
- What are the main characteristics of the Lost Generation movement?
- Who are the main representatives of the Lost Generation movement?

**William Faulkner.**
- What are the main novels and short stories written by William Faulkner?
- What are the main characteristic features of William Faulkner's novels?
- What are the main themes of William Faulkner's works?

**British/American dystopian novels of the XX century** (including cyberpunk novels).
- What are the main characteristic features of the dystopian novel?
- What are the most famous British/American dystopian novels of the XX century?
- What is cyberpunk?

**American poetry after 1950.**
- What are the main trends/movements associated with the American poetry after 1950?
- Who are the most famous American poets writing after 1950?
- What are the main characteristic features of the American poetry after 1950

**Afro-American Literature.**
- What are the origins of Afro-American literature?
- What are the main characteristics of Afro-American literature?
- Who are the main representatives of Afro-American literature?

**Toni Morrison.**
- What are the main novels written by Toni Morrison?
- What are the main characteristic features of Toni Morrison's novels?
- What are the main themes of Toni Morrison's works?

**Postmodern novel.**
- What are the main characteristics of the postmodern novel?
- Who are the main representatives of American/British postmodern novel?
- What are the main differences between modernist and postmodern literature?

REFERENCES
- Richard Ruland and Malcolm Bradbury, From Puritanism to Postmodernism. A History of American Literature – pp. 237-429.
- David Daiches, A Critical History of English Literature, Volume II, pp. 1152-1178.
- Malcolm Bradbury, The British Novel.

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## PROSEMINAR 2

| Dyscyplina/Field of study |
|---|
| **Językoznawstwo/ Media i komunikacja społeczna**<br>**Linguistics/ Media and communication studies** |
| **Prowadzący / Supervisor** |
| **Dr hab. Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska, prof. UO** |
| **Kierunek, stopień/ Study Programme, Major** |
| **ENGLISH PHILOLOGY (MA)**<br>**STACJONARNE/FULL TIME** |
| **Krótki opis / Short description** |

MA Seminar focus/topic:
**Discursive Strategies in Public Communication**

MA Seminar description (what to expect):
In this seminar, students explore selected areas of public communication (e.g., political propagandas, promotional discourses, marketing and advertising, news and journalism, organizational or institutional websites, social media, blogosphere). The class discussions and readings focus on examples of discursive strategies used by public communicators for the purposes of self-presentation, identity construction, persuasion, manipulation, etc. Students also become familiar with the main research orientations and methods of analyzing public texts (content analysis, semiotic analysis, narrative analysis, rhetorical analysis and discourse analysis) and with exemplary studies in the field. On this basis, students choose the areas for individual research projects. They draw on their knowledge of theories and practices of mediated communication and their ability to apply analytic categories. In their projects, students analyze a sample of freely available texts to answer a research question related to the properties and/or effectiveness of those texts. They explore this in the context of a given theory of communication. The conclusions from their projects may include practical implications.

MA Seminar reading list (1-2 positions):
Baran, Stanley and Dennis Davis (2006) Mass Communication Theory: Foundations, Ferment, and Future. (fourth edition). Thomson Wadsworth.
Stokes, Jane (2003) How to do Media and Cultural Studies. London: Sage.

**Candidates who did not study humanities at BA level, will need to approach an interview in which they will be asked to present their background knowledge of the following aspects of linguistics:**

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| COMMUNICATION STUDIES |
|---|
| **General Communication Theories** |
| • What is communication? |
| • What are the basic elements of the communication process: sender, receiver, message, channel, feedback, noise, context? |
| • What is the difference between interpersonal, intrapersonal, and mass communication or between verbal and nonverbal communication? |
| • What are the main functions of language in communication in society? |
| **Interpersonal Communication:** |
| • What are the key principles of effective interpersonal communication? |
| • What is the difference between self-disclosure and impression management? |
| • What is relational communication, and why is it important? |
| **Mass Communication and Media Studies:** |
| • What is mass communication? |
| • How does it differ from face-to-face communication? |
| • What is media convergence? Provide examples. |
| • What is agenda-setting theory and how does it impact media consumers? |
| • What is the difference between traditional media and new media? |
| • How does the media influence public opinion? |
| **Nonverbal Communication** |
| • What is nonverbal communication?  Provide examples of different types e.g., kinesics, proxemics, haptics, paralanguage. |
| • How does culture influence nonverbal communication? |
| • What is the significance of eye contact in communication? |
| • What is the difference between facial expressions and gestures in communication? |
| • What role does silence play in communication? |
| **Intercultural Communication** |
| • What is intercultural communication, and why is it important? |
| • What are high-context and low-context cultures in Hall's cultural theory? |
| • How do cultural differences affect communication styles? |
| • What is ethnocentrism, and how can it impact communication? |
| • What is Hofstede's cultural dimensions theory. |
| **Rhetoric and Persuasion:** |
| • What is rhetoric? |
| • What are Aristotle's three modes of persuasion - ethos, pathos, logos? |
| • What are the key components of a persuasive speech? |
| • How does cognitive dissonance theory relate to persuasion? |
| • What is propaganda, and how does it differ from persuasion? |
| **Digital and Social Media Communication** |
| • What is digital communication, and how has it changed the way people interact? |
| • What is virality in the context of social media? |
| • How do social media algorithms affect information consumption? |
| • What is the role of influencers in digital marketing? |
| • What are echo chambers in social media communication. |
| **Organizational Communication:** |
| • What is organizational communication, and why is it important? |
| • What is the difference between formal and informal communication networks in organizations? |
| • What are the key principles of crisis communication? |
| • What is workplace communication and what is its impact on productivity? |
| • What is leadership communication, and how does it influence team dynamics? |
| **Political and Public Communication** |
| • What is political communication, and why is it significant in democratic societies? |
| • What is "spin doctoring" in political communication? |
| • How do public relations strategies shape public perception? |
| • What is the role of speeches and debates in political communication? |
| • How does the media influence political discourse? |
|  |
| REFERENCES |
| • Cockcroft. R. Cockcroft S. (2013). *Persuading people: An introduction to rhetoric*. Bloomsbury. |
| • Crystal, D. (2011). *Internet linguistics: A student guide*. Routledge. |
| • Fairclough, N. (2001). *Language and power* (2nd ed.). Longman. |
| • Jones, R. H., Jaworska, S., Aslan, E. (2020). *Language and media: A resource book for students*. Routledge |
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**Additional possible choice of a proseminar in Literary Studies/Culture Studies for individual students**

**PROSEMINAR 3**

| Dyscyplina / Field of study |
|---|
| **Literaturoznawstwo / Literary Studies** |
| **Prowadzący / Supervisor** |
| **Dr hab. Joanna Skolik, prof. UO** |
| **Kierunek, stopień / Study Programme, Major** |
| **ENGLISH PHILOLOGY<br>STACJONARNE/FULL TIME** |
| **Krótki opis / Short description** |

MA Seminar focus/topic – **Joseph Conrad in Pop Culture, Culture, and Literature**
By participating in this seminar, students will have the opportunity to delve into the works of Joseph Conrad and discover how the themes he addresses—such as identity, otherness, morality, and the crisis of civilization—continue to resonate in contemporary culture. By analysing selected works, participants will learn how Conrad's motifs appear in literature, films, video games, and other forms of popular culture. They will also compare classical interpretations with new readings of his work. Together, we will seek answers to the question of what from Conrad's works remains most relevant today and how his writing continues to inspire creators in popular culture.

**Proposed Thematic Blocks**
**1. Conrad and Contemporary Issues**
- Relevance of themes such as migration, terrorism, and otherness
- Conrad and contemporary Europe: identity crises and cultural tensions
- Conrad in journalistic and media discourse

**2. Conrad and Popular Culture**
- Film and TV adaptations (e.g. *Apocalypse Now*, *The Secret Agent*)
- Conradian motifs in video games, comics, and music
- Conrad's characters and archetypes in popular culture

**3. Conrad and Theory**
- Conrad as a modernist writer
- Postcolonial, psychoanalytic, existential readings of Conrad
- Narrative and perspective: Conrad's literary techniques

**4. Selected Works as Focal Points**
- *Heart of Darkness* – inspirations and reinterpretations
- *The Secret Agent* – terrorism, manipulation, and social anxiety
- *Under Western Eyes* – East and West, politics and ethics

**Candidates who did not study humanities at BA level, will need to approach an interview in which they will be asked to present their background knowledge of selected aspects of literary studies**