

Subject card

Subject name and code	Historical and Cultural Contexts of British Literature I, PG_00137643						
Field of study	English Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor'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		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Maria Fengler				
	Teachers		dr Maria Fengler				
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		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to place the literary output of British writers within a broad historical and cultural context. Students will learn about the most important events in the political and social history of the British Isles from the Middle Ages to the 18th century as well as the main intellectual and artistic movements shaping the vision of the world and the aesthetic models of particular literary-historical epochs.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FAL3_W02] Knows and understands to an advanced degree selected issues constituting the basic general knowledge in the field of literary studies of English-speaking countries.	Knows and understands to an advanced degree selected issues constituting the basic general knowledge in the field of history of British literature from the Middle Ages to the 18th century: knows and understands the periodization and characteristic features of literary epochs, their aesthetics and dominating literary genres in connection against their historical and cultural context.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAL3_U02] Properly uses the acquired subject knowledge to identify, analyze, interpret and explain facts, phenomena and processes in the field of English, linguistics and English-language literature, using concepts and methods in the field of linguistics and literature	Properly uses the acquired knowledge to identify, analyze, interpret and explain facts, phenomena and processes in the field of historical and cultural contexts of British literature from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, using literary-historical concepts.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAL3_U08] Talks and writes about the history, culture and realities of English-speaking countries.	Talks and writes about the history, culture and realities of Great Britain from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAL3_K01] Critically evaluates the extent of their knowledge and skills, in particular in the field of the English language, linguistics and English-language literature.	Critically evaluates the extent of their knowledge and skills in the field of historical and cultural contexts of British literature from the Middle Ages to the 18th century	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAL3_W12] Knows and understands selected issues and terminology relevant to the study of history, culture and realities of English-speaking countries, which constitute the basic context for research on the English language and English-language literature.	Knows and understands selected issues and terminology relevant to the study of history, culture of Great Britain from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, constituting the basic context for research on English-language literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	The course covers selected problems of historical and cultural contexts of British literature such as: Geography of the British Isles. Britishness and national and regional identities in the British Isles; languages of the British Isles. Culture and history of the British Isles in the Middle Ages (Celtic and Anglo-Saxon cultures, Celtic motifs in British literature; the Norman Conquest and its impact on the English language, culture and institutions, Magna Carta and the development of English Parliament; chivalric ideology, courtly love and the development of chivalric romance; the Hundred Years War, Black Death, War of the Roses and their literary representations. England during the Renaissance (the Reformation and the impact of Protestantism on English culture and literature; rivalry with Spain and the beginnings of English colonialism; Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Mary Stuart in history and culture). History and culture of seventeenth-century England (conflict between the Stuarts and Parliament; Civil War and the Commonwealth; the politics, culture and literature of the Restoration, Glorious Revolution; scientific revolution and its impact on the worldview, literature and culture; John Locke and his influence on Enlightenment culture). Great Britain during the Enlightenment (party system and the development of Cabinet; the role of the press and the fight for freedom of speech; artistic and intellectual movements from Neoclassicism to Romanticism and their main representatives; intellectual and social developments leading to the rise of the novel; colonial expansion and the loss of American colonies; the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution; the French Revolution and its political and cultural impact in Britain).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of English at least B1 level		

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	written/oral test	51.0%	85.0%
	attendance confirmed by notes from the lecture	100.0%	15.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	David McDowall, An Illustrated History of Britain, Longman 1989. W. Lipoński, Dzieje kultury brytyjskiej, PWN 2003 (wybrane zagadnienia).	
	Supplementary literature	B. Ford (ed.), The Cambridge Cultural History of Britain, vol. 1-5, CUP 1992 (selected chapters according to the student's interests). K. Morgan, The Oxford History of Britain, OUP 2010 (selected chapters according to the student's interests).	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed			
Work placement	Not applicable		

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