

Subject card

Subject name and code	Positivistic literature, PG_00141382						
Field of study	Polish Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
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	2		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Magdalena Kreft-Świetlik				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	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 familiarize students with the worldview of the positivist period and its literary achievements. The classes provide a broad overview of selected topics and attitudes, ideas and contexts, great literary heroes and creators of the era, as well as the genres practiced. The result is also to improve the practical ability to analyze and interpret literary works.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FPL3_U01] Is capable of searching, analyzing, evaluating and selecting information in literary studies, using spoken and written sources available in different media.	Student: • uses traditional and modern sources of literary texts and scientific studies, bibliographies and dictionaries, • develops issues related to the literature of the discussed period, independently acquires knowledge constituting the basis for classes.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[FPL3_U03] Has basic research skills, including formulation and analysis of research problems, selection of research methods and tools, development and presentation of results, allowing to solve problems in the field of literary studies.	Student: • in practice, applies the acquired knowledge in the field of the history of Polish and general literature as well as poetics and literary theory, • uses terms from the history and theory of literature when working with positivist texts, • distinguishes various forms of expression, is able to prepare a short oral statement on a given topic related to the literature of positivism and an interpretative statement, as well as answer in writing the questions given in the test, • takes the floor in a group discussion, proves, argues, compares, polemicizes and formulates judgments about the often controversial and ambiguous attitudes of literary characters and the problems discussed, using his experience and observations of a social and psychological nature, • improves the ability to take notes, read quickly, collect study materials, plan work, and performs written works of various content, purpose and scope.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU6] demonstration of practical skills
	[FPL3_U06] Can assess the level of his competence and understands the need for continuous training and professional development in literary studies.	Student: • is aware of the scope of his own knowledge of the literature of the second half of the 19th century and the consequences resulting from it, • skillfully organizes research and self-education activities in the field of Polish literature and critically assesses their level of advancement, • strives to independently expand their knowledge of the literature of the positivist period and their ability to interpret it.	[SU5] implementation of a problem task [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[FPL3_K01] He organizes his work in the field of literary studies effectively and evaluates the degree of its progress critically.	Student: • is able to work independently and cooperate with others, is able to educate himself, read additional books, undertake his own research tasks in the field of positivist literature, • broadens horizons and deepens awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of the 19th century and the relationships of representatives of this era with subsequent generations.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FPL3_W01] Has specific knowledge of the place and the importance of literary studies in the system of sciences and its subject and methodological specificity.	Student: • is able to determine the place of positivist literature in relation to the literature of previous eras (especially Romanticism) and subsequent generations (e.g. modernism), as well as its place against the background of general literature, • gains experience in interpreting and reinterpreting not only literary texts, but also all cultural works and linguistic messages; can correctly read fragments of texts with double meaning (Aesopian speech).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FPL3_W02] Has specific knowledge of the history of Polish and world literature.	Student: • is able to characterize the period of positivism in Polish literature, describe the worldview of the era, list the main ideas, trends and concepts related to it, describe the course and changes of the period, • can introduce representatives of the most important trends, camps, tendencies and attitudes present in social and literary public life, • has the information necessary to present the profiles of the most important authors of literature of the positivist period, their works, the issues they addressed and the characteristics of their style, • has knowledge about political, social and cultural life and literature in the lands of the three partitions, • discusses the changes in realism, as well as literary types and genres cultivated in the second half of the 19th century, taking into account the diversifying and newly emerging ones, • is able to show the dependence of literature on the socio-political-economic-cultural situation, • gaining knowledge about the pro-social attitudes of the generation of the second half of the 19th century, observing the process of shaping civic awareness and attitudes as well as the roots of current social and patriotic attitudes, • acquires knowledge about the sources of contemporary phenomena and attitudes (feminism and the issue of women's emancipation in the discussed period, the issue of anti-Semitism, fear of technological civilization and globalization), is ready to broaden and change his views, • notices and reflects on political, social and historical dilemmas, characteristic of the studied era (e.g. patriotism, betrayal, loyaltyism, fighting methods), and recurring in subsequent decades and generational discussions, • recognizes the importance of the presence of both masterpieces and works by minorum gentium writers and works of popular literature in the totality of native literature.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents	Problems of the exercises: analysis and interpretation of works of positivist literature selected from the reading list by the instructor, taking into account the issues appearing during the lectures - showing the reflection of various problems of the era in the literary texts created at that time (novels, short stories, poetry of "non-poetic times", journalism); Aesopian speech; tendentious, mature realism, naturalism; poetics of mature realism novels; historical novel; social, philosophical, psychological and biographical context of the works; symbolism, themes and motifs; drama and theater; connections with Western European literature; characteristics of the style of the most outstanding writers.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	It is required to complete historical and literary subjects from previous semesters, unless the instructor decides otherwise. Ability to analyze and interpret literary works, knowledge of the history of Polish literature and common literature of periods preceding the discussed literary era. In the case of foreign students, it is necessary to know the Polish language well enough to understand the content presented during classes and actively participate in them.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	oral exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Each time at the beginning of the semester, the instructor determines the scope of reading required to pass the course and the exam. Obligatory literary texts: Adam Asnyk, Collected Poems, introduction by Z. Mocarska-Tycowa, Toruń 1995 (Dream of graves, sonnets Above the Depths, Tatra poetry, erotic poems). Michał Bałucki, Big fish (published by the National Library [BN]). Adolf Dygasiński, Zając. Maria Konopnicka, Poezje, ed. A. Brodzka (e.g. series: Pictures, On the Pipe, Songs and Songs, Songs without Echo, Italia). Novels: Banasiowa; Smoke; Our horse; Miss Florentyna; Still life; Community mercy; In Gdansk. Jan Lam, The Great World of Capowice. Eliza Orzeszkowa, Nad Niemnem (BN); Martha; Boor; Meir Ezołowicz. Novels: ABC; Good lady; Hecuba; Cells; Tadeusz; On a winter evening. Literary programs and discussions of the positivist period, ed. J. Kulczycka-Saloni (BN): introduction and articles: A. Wiślicki, Peas for the wall; E. Orzeszkowa, Some remarks on the novel; About T.T. Jeź's novels with a glance at the novel in general; A. Świętochowski, Social and literary mold; P. Chmielowski, Utilitarianism in literature; Immorality in literature; B. Prus, A word about positive criticism; Fire and sword. A novel from the old days [rev.]; H. Sienkiewicz, On naturalism in the novel; About the historical novel; A. Sygietyński, Contemporary novel in France. G. Flaubert. Bolesław Prus, Chronicles. Choice (BN); Doll (BN); Facility (BN); Emancipationists; Pharaoh. Novels: Antek; Shadows; Vest; Mistake; The returning wave; Dream; From the legends of ancient Egypt (BN). Henryk Sienkiewicz, Letters from a trip to America (selected); Fire and sword; Without dogma (BN). Novels: No one is a prophet among his own; Mistletoe; Sachem; Old servant; Charcoal sketches; From the diary of a teacher from Poznań; For bread (BN). Aleksander Świętochowski, Chawa Rubin; Chess Club; Oxen (BN). Mandatory textbooks and historical-literary studies: G. Borkowska, Positivists et al., Warszawa 1996. E. Jankowski, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Warsaw 1964. J. Krzyżanowski, Works of Henryk Sienkiewicz, Warsaw 1970. J. Kulczycka-Saloni, D. Knysz-Rudzka, E. Paczoska, Naturalism and naturalists in Poland, Warsaw 1992. H. Markiewicz, Pozytywizm, Warszawa 1999. A. Martuszevska, Poetics of the Polish novel of mature realism
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		(1876-1895), Wrocław 1977. The image of Polish literature. Series 4. Polish literature in the period of realism and naturalism, edited by H. Markiewicz, J. Kulczycka-Saloni, Z. Żabicki. Vol. 14, Warsaw 1965-1971. Dictionary of Polish literature of the 19th century, ed. J. Bachórz, A. Kowalczykowa, Wrocław 1991. Z. Szweykowski, Works of Bolesław Prus. Vol. 12, Warsaw 1972 (2nd ed.). J. Tomkowski, My positivism, Warsaw 1993. "Znak" 1996, No. 2: The legacy of positivism.
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Supplementary literature	Optional literary texts to choose from: Michał Bałucki, The mayor of Pipidówka; Open house. Józef Bliziński, Castaways (BN). Tadeusz Budrewicz, Poems of positivists. Interpretacje, Katowice 2000. Adolf Dygasiński, Wolf, dogs and people; Beldonek. Sparks from the ashes. Forgotten Polish stories of the 19th century. P. 12, ed. J. W. Gomulicki, Warsaw 1958-1960 (selected stories). Maria Konopnicka, Short stories: Prison pictures; On the Normandy shore; selected songs for children. Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, Child of the Old Town (BN); Crazy. Jan Lam, Heads of Gilding; Koroniarz in Galicia; A selection of chronicles, ed. S. Frybes, Warsaw 1954. Eliza Orzeszkowa, Dziurdziowie; Bene nati. Literary programs and discussions of the positivist period, ed. J. Kulczycka-Saloni (BN). Articles: A. Świętochowski, We and you; P. Chmielowski, Young forces; priest F. Krupiński, Romanticism and its consequences; S. Witkiewicz, Mickiewicz as a colorist. Bolesław Prus, Literary notes on composition (selected fragments), introduction, selection, ed. A. Martuszevska, Gdańsk 2010; Childhood sins; Angela. Journalism of the positivist period 1860-1900. Anthology, ed. S. Fita, Warsaw 2002. Henryk Sienkiewicz, The Połaniecki Family; Quo vadis (BN); Flood; Teutonic Knights. Short stories: Janko Muzykant; Lighter; Sailing legend [BN]. Antoni Sygietyński, On the Rocks of Calvados; Blown out of the saddle. Adam Szymański, Sketches (selected texts), introduction and ed. B. Burdziej, Kraków 1998. Aleksander Świętochowski, Musings of a pessimist, ed. and introduction by E. Paczoska, Warszawa 2002; Liberum veto, vol. 12, selection and introduction by S. Sandler, Warsaw 1976; Memories, ed. S. Sandler, Wrocław 1966. Gabriela Zapolska, Kaśka Kariatyda. Optional historical and literary studies to choose from: J. Bachórz, Meetings with "The Doll". Mendel's studies and sketches about the novel by Bolesław Prus, Gdańsk 2010.
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		A. Brodzka, Maria Konopnicka, Warsaw 1961. T. Bujnicki, Sienkiewicz's "Novel from the Old Years". Studies, Kraków 1996. Philosophy and social thought in the years 1865-1895, selection and ed. A. Hochfeldowa and B. Skarga, vol. 12, Warsaw 1980. S. Kieniewicz, Drama of sober enthusiasts. About people of organic work, Warsaw 1964. R. Koziołek, Sienkiewicz's bodies. Studies on gender and violence, Katowice 2009. "The Doll" and others. Studies in the centenary of the Polish realistic novel, edited by J. Bachórz and M. Głowiński, Warsaw 1992. L. Magnone, Maria Konopnicka. Mirrors and symptoms, Gdańsk 2011. H. Markiewicz, "The Doll" by Bolesław Prus, Warsaw 1967. Z. Mocarska-Tycowa, Elections and necessities. Asnyk's poetry in the face of aesthetic tastes and the most important questions of his time, Toruń 1990. New century of the trinity of novelists, edited by A.Z. Makowiecki, Warsaw 1992. The anti-positivist breakthrough in Polish cultural consciousness at the end of the 19th century, edited by T. Bujnicki and J. Maciejewski, Wrocław 1986. A. Romanowski, Positivism in Lithuania. Polish cultural life in the Lithuanian-Belarusian-Livonian lands in the years 1864-1904, Kraków 2003. Secrets of Orzeszkowa, edited by G. Borkowska, M. Rudkowska, I. Wiśniewska, Warsaw 2012. Surprises by Krąszewski, edited by M. Zielińska, Wrocław 1990. M. Żmigrodzka, Orzeszkowa. The youth of positivism, Warsaw 1965.
	eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Bolesław Prus as a journalist and columnist. 2. Poems by Maria Konopnicka - topics, styles, genres. 3. Comedy and satire in the works of Jan Lam. 4. Naturalism in the work of Adolf Dygasiński. 5. Henryk Sienkiewicz's trilogy - a model of a historical novel, themes, style and reception. 6. Time and space in Nad Niemnem by Eliza Orzeszkowa. 7. The Doll as "a novel with the great questions of the era". 8. Positivists about women and women's issues - selected journalistic and prose works. 9. Characters of peasants in the works of Orzeszkowa and Sienkiewicz. 10. Parabolic short stories - explanation of the genre, functions, examples and interpretations.
Work placement	Not applicable

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