

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to cultural studies - lecture I, PG_00130530						
Field of study	Cultural 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		Polish		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Culture Studies -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Magdalena Sacha				
	Teachers		dr Helena Draganik				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15		2.0		33.0	50
Subject objectives	The purpose of the "Introduction to Cultural Studies" lecture is to acquaint students with the key issues that are central to both historical and modern debates in cultural studies and cultural anthropology. It encompasses the development of cultural concepts and demonstrates how culture is intertwined with contemporary societies. The lecture acts as a theoretical counterpart to practical exercises in cultural studies, guiding students towards theoretical matters, such as the contributions of scholars and the academic underpinnings of the field.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[KULL3_K01] Student understands the necessity of lifelong learning and professional development.	Students understand the importance of continuous learning about cultures and culture throughout their lives, deepening their understanding of the relationship between culture and the way societies live.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[KULL3_K05] Student actively participates in cultural and artistic life.	Students participate in the cultural life of the University, the Tri-City area, and their home region, actively and passively engaging in artistic and cultural events.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[KULL3_U03] Student uses basic theories of culture and art, as well as concepts from cultural and religious studies and art studies.	Students familiarize themselves with basic theoretical concepts in the field of cultural studies and art history, and are able to use these concepts both orally and in writing.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[KULL3_W02] Student is familiar with the terminology in the field of cultural and religious studies, as well as art studies.	Students are familiar with both general and detailed terminology within the scope of an introduction to cultural studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[KULL3_W04] Student has general knowledge about social, philosophical, and historical issues that form the foundation for reflection on culture and art.	Students organize the acquired knowledge about social, historical, and philosophical issues, which constitute a broad context for the foundations of cultural studies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[KULL3_W01] Student has organized knowledge about the place and significance of cultural and religious studies, as well as art studies, in the field of humanities. They understand their subject-specific and methodological specifics.	Upon completion of the course, students have organized knowledge regarding the significance of cultural studies in the broader context of humanities and social sciences.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[KULL3_U07] Student prepares oral presentations and discussions on topics related to culture and art, including collaborative work within a team.	Students are capable of preparing concise oral presentations on topics within the scope of cultural studies, both individually and in collaboration with their peers.	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
Subject contents	The proposed lecture topics should draw on students' experiences and knowledge while also conveying theoretical knowledge. The order and themes of the lectures are determined by the lecturer each time, consulting with other lecturers conducting exercises. 1. Definition of the human in cultural terms. Culture versus nature. 2. What does culture mean? Development of definitions of culture from antiquity to contemporary anthropological definitions. Evaluative and descriptive definitions. 3. Fields of symbolic culture: religion, science, art, play. 4. Cultural studies as a scientific discipline. 5. Cultural valuation of space: sacred and profane spaces. The concept of proxemics. Centers and peripheries. 6. Cultural perception of time. Cyclical time and linear time. 7. Discourses of the body. Changes in attitudes towards the body in historical perspective.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Active presence	10.0%	10.0%
	Written or oral exam	90.0%	90.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Aleida Assman, Wprowadzenie do kulturoznawstwa. Podstawowe terminy, problemy, pytania, Poznań 2015. Wojciech J. Burszta, Antropologia kultury. Tematy, teorie, interpretacje, wyd. I, Poznań 1998. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, Małe miejsca, wielkie sprawy. Wprowadzenie do antropologii społecznej i kulturowej, Warszawa 2009. Pojęcia i problemy wiedzy o kulturze, red. A. Kłoskowska, Seria: Encyklopedia kultury polskiej, Wrocław 1991
	Supplementary literature	Antropologia kultury. Zagadnienia i wybór tekstów, red. Grzegorz Godlewski, Leszek Kolankiewicz, Andrzej Mencwel, Paweł Rodak, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2005 (i inne wydania)
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Please explain the origin (etymology) of the concept of culture and outline the difference between its original meaning in antiquity and its contemporary understanding. 2. Please explain the difference between evaluative and descriptive definitions of culture according to Aleida Assmann. Which understanding of culture among the six discussed is most convincing to you and why? 3. Please discuss the arguments presented in the conclusion of Waldemar Kuligowski's lecture on the concept of culture in defense of using the term "culture." How do you relate to these arguments? Do you believe that using the term "culture" is still justified, or should it be abandoned? 4. What does the anthropological encounter with Otherness entail? Considerations on the margins of the theses contained in Chapter 1 of Wojciech Burszty's "Anthropology of Culture." 5. The problematic relationship between NATURE - CULTURE. Considerations on the margins of the theses contained in Chapter 2 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture." 6. Please discuss Ruth Benedict's concept of cultural patterns. How can the use of Apollonian and Dionysian patterns be justified (or critically questioned) in studying indigenous tribes? 7. What is symbolic culture, and what subsystems of symbolic culture does Antonina Kłoskowska distinguish? 8. Understanding religion - what role does religion play in human societies? How does its instrumental and autotelic form manifest itself? 9. Please discuss Rudolf Otto's concept of the numinous. What advantages and disadvantages do you see in this concept? 10. "Homo religiosus" and the "sacrificial scapegoat" - two concepts by two eminent researchers. Please characterize them and discuss their applicability in interpreting the contemporary role of religion. 11. Please list three types of culture in a stratified society. Then choose one of the three types and characterize its origin, users, the most interesting forms of representation through art, everyday life, behavior. Are there remnants of the chosen type of traditional culture in contemporary mass culture? 12. The concept of ethos. Characteristics of the chivalric ethos and its remnants in contemporary Western culture. 13. Please discuss the most important characteristics of human language (description in Chapter 3 of Wojciech Burszty's "Anthropology of Culture"). Which characteristics do you think have contributed most significantly to the development of human cultures? 14. What hypotheses does the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis propose (description in Chapter 3 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture")? Please discuss arguments for and against this hypothesis. 15. Please discuss the functions of language according to schemes proposed by linguists, anthropologists, and philosophers in the 20th century. 16. Propaganda language - historical development, characteristics, and contemporary threats. 17. Please discuss Arnold van Gennep's concept of les rites de passage (description in Chapter 5 of Wojciech Burszta's "Anthropology of Culture"). Do we observe such rituals or their remnants in contemporary culture? 18. Cultural vision of death in Slavic culture, in Polish Romanticism, and today. What is the concept of "inverted death" in contemporary Western society (Ph. Aries)? 19. The concept of cyclical and linear time: how does the perception of time organize society, culture, and religion? What is the contemporary vision of "slow life"? 20. The concept of proxemics in relation to the organization of space in different cultures.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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