

Subject card

Subject name and code	The poetics of the grotesque, PG_00145284						
Field of study	Creative Writing						
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 Optional subject group 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 Literary Theory and Art Criticism -> Institute of Polish Philology -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Maciej Dajnowski				
	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 classes is to expand the competences of students in the field of poetics of literary texts (in relation to grotesque varieties of artistic fiction) and to deepen their competences in the field of analysis, interpretation and evaluation of literary works. Secondary goals are to deepen knowledge in the field of art history (transformations of grotesque conventions in painting, illustrations, decorations) to the extent necessary for the development of writing competences and practical exercises in generating literary grotesque effects.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SKPL3_W06] Knows and understands at an advanced level important forms, genres, linguistic conventions and artistic attitudes of contemporary literary culture identified in the field of literary studies and their importance for independent participation in literary and cultural life, including the creation of texts and participation in public debate in compliance with the rules of communication defined in the framework of modern linguistics, in organizational activity and entrepreneurship.	The student knows and understands at an advanced level the more important phenomena recorded by contemporary literary studies and Polish studies that implement the poetics of the grotesque in Polish and universal literature, culture and art.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[SKPL3_K01] Is ready to assess his knowledge and creative skills as well as the value of his own artistic, critical and applied texts, using, among others, findings of contemporary literary studies.	The student is ready to assess his knowledge and creative skills in the field of grotesque fiction and the value of his own artistic texts, using, among others, findings of contemporary literary and Polish studies.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK6] demonstration of practical skills
	[SKPL3_U02] Is able to use literary and cultural methods and theories to create interpretations and assessments of literary texts.	The student is able to use literary methods and theories focused on the phenomenon of grotesque, especially from the field of Polish studies, to create interpretations and assessments of literary texts.	[SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
Subject contents	1. The birth and scope of the concept of "grotesque". 2. Grotesqueness in visual arts - evolution of the concept and phenomenon. 3. Diversity of understanding of the concept of "grotesque" in the area of fiction and criticism. 4. "Mythological" grotesque and its connections with fantasy poetics. 5. "Light" grotesque: the line of Mikhail Bakhtin and Aaron Gurevich (Renaissance grotesque). 6. "Dark" grotesque: the line of Sigmund Freud and Wolfgang Kayser (romantic grotesque). 7. "Light" grotesque, its connections with the macabre and macabre. 8. Grotesque and the Great Avant-garde. 9. Grotesque and the poetics of the absurd. 10. Grotesque and postmodernism. 11. Grotesque in contemporary theater. 12. Grotesque in film. 13. Grotesque in comics. 14. Grotesque and popular culture.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Final paper	51.0%	60.0%
	Active participation in discussions	51.0%	40.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Literary works: • François Rabelais, <i>Gargantua i Pantagruel</i>, przeł. T. Boy-Żeleński [fragmenty]. • Miguel Cervantes, <i>Przemysłny szlachcic Don Kichote z Manczy</i>, przeł. A. i Z. Czerny [fragmenty]. • E.T.A. Hoffmann, <i>Piaskun</i>, przeł. F. Faleński. • Roman Jaworski, <i>Historie maniaków</i> [fragmenty]. • Franz Kafka, <i>Przemiana</i>, przeł. J. Kydryński. • Afred Kubin, <i>Po tamtej stronie</i>, przeł. A.M. Linke. • Stanisław Lem, <i>Dzienniki gwiazdowe</i> [fragmenty]. • Gustav Meyrink, <i>Golem</i>, przeł. A. Lange. • Sławomir Mrożek, wybór opowiadań. • Bruno Schulz, <i>Sklepy cynamonowe</i> [wybór]. • Tadeusz Strug, <i>Zakopanoptikon</i> [fragmenty]. • Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, wybór dramatów. Theoretical studies: • M. Bachtin, <i>Twórczość Franciszka Rabelaisa a kultura ludowa Średniowiecza i Renesansu</i>, przeł. A. i A. Goreniewie, Kraków 1975. • H. Bloom, B. Hobby, <i>The Grotesque</i>, Infobase Publishing, New York 2009. • W. Bolecki, <i>Groteska, groteskowość</i>, [hasło w:] <i>Słownik literatury polskiej XX wieku</i>, red. A. Brodzka i in., Wrocław 1992. • W. Bolecki, <i>Od potworów do znaków pustych. Z dziejów groteski: Młoda Polska i dwudziestolecie międzywojenne</i>, [w:] <i>Pre-teksty i teksty. Z zagadnień związków międzytekstowych w literaturze polskiej XX wieku</i>, Warszawa 1991, [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1989, z. 1. • S. Buryła, <i>Nobilitacja groteski</i>, "Teksty Drugie" 2006, nr 4. • J.R. Clark, <i>The Modern satiric grotesque and its traditions</i>, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington 1991. • A. Clayborough, <i>Z problemów teorii groteski (I) i (II)</i>, przeł. P. Marciszuk, J. Bujek, W. Kruska, "Przegląd Humanistyczny" 1981, nr 1/2 i 3. • R. Duggan, <i>The grotesque in contemporary British fiction</i>, Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York 2013. • J.D. Edwards, R. Graulund, <i>Grotesque</i>, Routledge, New York 2013. • M. Esslin, <i>Znaczenie absurdu</i>, przeł. P. Bikont, "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1976, z. 3. • S. Freud, <i>Niesamowite</i>, [w:] <i>Pisma psychologiczne</i>, przeł. R. Reszke, Warszawa 1997. • M. Głowiński, <i>Groteska jako kategoria estetyczna</i>, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003. • M. Głowiński, <i>Groteska we współczesnej literaturze polskiej</i>, [w:] <i>Intertekstualność, groteska, parabola</i>, Kraków 2000. • T. Gryglewicz, <i>Groteska w sztuce polskiej XX wieku</i>, Kraków 1984. • A.J. Guriewicz, <i>Problemy średniowiecznej kultury ludowej</i>, przeł. Z. Dobrzyński, Warszawa 1987. • A.J. Guriewicz, <i>Z historii groteski. "Góra" i "Dół" w średniowiecznej literaturze łacińskiej</i>, przeł. W. Krzemień, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003; [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1979, z. 4. • S.M. Halloran, <i>Język i absurd</i>, przeł. G. Cendrowska, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003; [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1979, z. 4. • A. Janus-Sitarz, <i>Groteska literacka. Od Diabła w Damaszku do Becketta i Mrożka</i>, Kraków 1997. • L.B. Jennings, <i>Termin "groteska"</i>, przeł. M.B. Fedewicz, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003; [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1979, z. 4. • E. Jentsch, <i>O psychologii niesamowitego</i>, "Autoportret". • W. Kayser, <i>Das Groteske. Seine Gestaltung in Malerei und Dichtung</i>, Oldenburg 1957. • W. Kayser, <i>Próba określenia istoty groteskowości</i>, przeł. R. Handke, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003; [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1979, z. 4. • B. McElroy, <i>Fiction of the Modern Grotesque</i>, St. Martin's Press, New York 1989. • B. McElroy, <i>Groteska i jej współczesna odmiana</i>, przeł. M.B. Fedewicz, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003. • P. Marciszuk, <i>Groteska i absurd (estetyczny i światopoglądowy aspekt groteski)</i>. Cz. 2, "Przegląd Humanistyczny" 1983, nr 4. • P. Marciszuk, <i>U podstaw groteskowej wizji świata - kryzys podmiotowości</i>. Cz. 1, "Przegląd Humanistyczny" 1982, nr 12. • R. Nycz, <i>Gest śmiechu : z przemian świadomości literackiej początku w. XX (do pierwszej wojny światowej)</i>, "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1977, z. 4. • J. Onimus, <i>Groteska a doświadczenie świadomości</i>, przeł. K. Falicka, [w:] <i>Groteska</i>, red. M. Głowiński, Gdańsk 2003; [lub pierwodruk:] "Pamiętnik Literacki" 1979, z. 4.
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		• B. Pawłowska-Jądrzyk, <i>Ciężar i lekkość w kulturze: estetyka, poetyka, style myślenia</i>, Kraków 2017. • B. Pawłowska-Jądrzyk, <i>Sens i chaos w grotesce literackiej. Od "Pałuby" do "Kosmosu"</i>, Kraków 2002. • E. Sidoruk, <i>Groteska w poezji Dwudziestolecia. Leśmian - Tuwim - Gałczyński</i>, Białystok 2004. • L. Sokół, <i>Groteska w teatrze Stanisława Ignacego Witkiewicza</i>, Wrocław 1973. • Ph. Thompson, <i>The Grotesque</i>, Routledge, New York 1972. • Sch.R. Weishaar, <i>Masters of the Grotesque: The Cinema of Tim Burton, Terry Gilliam, the Coen Brothers and David Lynch</i>, McFarland & Company, Jefferson 2012.
	Supplementary literature	Not applicable.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Relations between the humorous "Bakhtinian" grotesque and the dark, romantic one. A comparative analysis of grotesque literary and visual works.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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