University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Girard's idea and its application in political science., PG_00179298		
Field of study	Political Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish Polish
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Adam Romejko, prof. UG	
	Teachers	dr hab. Adam Romejko, prof. UG	

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	0.0	0.0	30

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the basic assumptions of the thought of the French-American anthropologist and literary scholar René Girard (1923-2015). His theories are called mimetic or mimetic-sacrificial, emphasizing the issue of imitation and the unifying violence that is reflected in it. His thought is used in various fields of science, primarily the humanities and social sciences. It is also used (although not as often) in political science.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification

Subject contents

1. René Girard a biographical sketch;
2. Girards scientific work;
3. Mimetic desire;
4. The scapegoat mechanism;
5. Rituals, myths and Greek tragedy as evidence of the scapegoat mechanism;
6. The biblical dismantling of the scapegoat mechanism;
7. Political aspects of mimetic theory;
8. The film Tristan and Isolde (Great Britain, Germany, Czech Republic, USA 2006);
9. Mimetic analysis of the film Tristan and Isolde the motif of rivalry for power;
10. The role of the other (other) in building national consciousness on the example of Polish-Lithuanian relations;
11. The Polish diaspora in Great Britain from a mimetic perspective;
12. The contemporary papacy as a scapegoat;
13. The sacrificial perspective in contemporary media coverage (on Kirstin Breitenfellners analyses);
14. Political benefits of positioning oneself as a political scapegoat on the example of the Muslim community in Austria;
15. Summary.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge of basic concepts and terms in philosophy and religious studies, knowledge of the main literary works, including the Bible and myths, knowledge of the basics of European and world history.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
80% final test, 20% active participation in lectures	61.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Film Tristan i Izolda (Wielka Brytania, Niemcy, Czechy, USA 2006); Girard R., Dawna droga, którą kroczyli ludzie niegodziwi, Warszawa 1992; Girard R., Kozioł ofiarny, Łódź 1987 (wyd. 2: 1991); Romejko A. Współczesne papiestwo jako kozioł ofiarny. Interpretacja mimetyczna, Przegląd Religioznawczy 4 (286)/2022, s. 119-132; Romejko A., Polacy w Wielkiej Brytanii: interpretacja mimetyczna, Tuchów 2015; Romejko A., René Girard jako chrześcijański apologeta, w: Nowa apologia. Czego, wobec kogo i jak bronimy?, red. P. Artemiuk, Płock 2020, s. 163-185; Romejko A., W trosce o austriacką szkołę. Dyskusja nad książką Kulturkampf im Klassenzimmer. Wie der Islam die Schulen verändert. Bericht einer Lehrerin, Studia Gdańskie 2019, t. 45, s. 225-243; Zambrzycki M., Problematyka relacji polsko-litewskich w świetle teorii mimetycznej René Girarda, Studia Gdańskie 2011, t. 29, s. 275-303.
	Supplementary literature	Breitenfellner K., Wir Opfer. Warum der Sündenbock unsere Kultur bestimmt, München 2013; Gielarowski A., O możliwym końcu kultury. Apokaliptyka René Girarda, Kraków 2021 Girard R. Apokalipsa tu i teraz, Kraków 2018; Kirwan M., Discovering Girard, Cambridge 2005; Maciejewski J., Nic to! Dlaczego historia Polski musi się powtarzać?, Kraków 2025; Strączek B, Konwersja w kulturze przemocy. Myśl antropologiczno-etyczna René Girarda, Kraków 2019.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What is René Girard's model of "triangular" desire? Explain the concept of the sacred. How does the issue of gaining power present itself in the context of the Book of Job? Indicate the political aspects of "modern care" for the victim.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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