

Subject card

Subject name and code	WPiA - Law and Literature: What Can Literature Teach Us About Justice?, PG_00179130						
Field of study	History						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject			2025/2026	
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group				
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery			e-learning	
Year of study	1		Language of instruction			English English	
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits			2.0	
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form			credit	
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Tomasz Snarski				
	Teachers						
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: 30.0						
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		20.0	50
Subject objectives	This course will explore the intersection between law and literature. Literature is important for understanding law because it teaches a certain way of thinking -- one that is synthetic, creative, and comfortable with ambiguity and ambivalence. Each class will explore one or more interrelated topics through a variety of literary and philosophical works of short to moderate length.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
			After completion of the course the student will be able to: 1) summarize and classify definitions of literary and legal terms, 2) encourage to think critically about the limitations of legal systems, and the ways in which literature articulates both the capacities and incapacities of the law as it is practiced and as it might be practiced, 3) evaluate the contribution of the field of law and literature to the intersection of humanitites and social sciences, 4) introduce to a range of different theoretical approaches to reading literature, law and literary text side by side.		[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task		

Subject contents	What is philosophy of law and aesthetics of law? "Law and literature" as a contemporary part of legal philosophy (basic concepts, genesis and perspectives).		
	Introduction, Literary Texts as Legal Texts. Legal themes in literature.		
	The Literary Indictment of Legal Injustice, Law and the Literary Imagination.		
	Legal Texts as Literary Texts, Interpreting Contracts, Statutes, and Constitutions.		
	Law, Justice, and morality: Law and Morality in literature.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	no		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
		0.0%	0.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. K. Zeidler, Aesthetics of Law, Gdańsk-Warszawa 2020. 2 .R. A. Posner, Law and Literature (2d ed. 1998). 3. G. Anastaplo, Law & Literature and Shakespeare: Explorations, 26 Okla. City. U. L. Rev. 4. M. C. Nussbaum, Hiding from humanity: disgust, shame, and the law, 2004. 5. Hu Chun-Xi, Law and Literature: Exploring the Intersection of Two Fields, Journal of Literature and Art Studies, March 2023, Vol. 13, No. 3, 170-177 doi: 10.17265/2159-5836/2023.03.007 6. M. Nussbaum, Equity and Mercy, Philosophy & Public Affairs , Spring, 1993, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Spring, 1993), pp. 83- 125. 7. J. Kamień, Prawo i literatura jako kierunek filozoficznoprawny, Gdańsk-Warszawa 2024.	
	Supplementary literature	no	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Aesthetics of Law		
	Legal Themes in the Literature		
	Themes of Crime, Punishment, Guilt, Justice, and Mercy in Literature		
	Famous Writers - Lawyers		
	Emotions and Law		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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