University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	German Literature - lecture II, PG_00184034		
Field of study	German Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
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 german 80% polish 20%
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of German Literature and Culture -> Institute of German Philology -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	prof. dr hab. Marion Brandt	
	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: 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 familiarise students with the most important developments in German literature in the first half of the 20th century in the context of world literature and taking into account the historical and cultural context. Students learn about the processes of development of literature and practice the ability to interpret outstanding works. The teaching of literary history should serve to provide a better understanding of the culture of the countries of the German-speaking area.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[FGL3_K01] They are ready to critically evaluate the knowledge they have acquired during their studies in Germanic Philology and to what extent the content they have received corresponds to this knowledge	They are ready to critically reflect on their knowledge of German-language literature from the first half of the 20th century and to re-evaluate it in the context of contemporary literary studies.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[FGL3_W05] They have advanced and detailed knowledge of selected issues in the field of research on the German-language, literature and the Polish-German borderlands	They can describe the literary eras, trends, movements, and groups in German-speaking countries during the first half of the 20th century; describe the works of significant German-language writers of that period; understand historical changes in German literature and its specific characteristics, as well as the formal evolution of German-language literature in the first half of the 20th century.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[FGL3_W09] They know and understand the fundamental dilemmas of the contemporary civilisation in the context of issues related to intercultural linguistic and literary communication and the role of modern information technologies in the work of a German philologist	Knows and understands fundamental dilemmas of modern civilization, as well as their historical contexts and literary representations in German culture during the first half of the 20th century.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[FGL3_U01] They are able to search for, critically evaluate and analyse sources and information, producing written work and oral presentations in German, particularly in the fields of linguistics, literary studies and cultural and religious studies of the German-speaking world, including the use of information and communication technologies	They are able to analyze, interpret, and critically evaluate literary works from the first half of the 20th century, both in written and oral form, using key literary methods such as hermeneutics or discourse theory.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents

German-language literature from the early 20th century to 1949, e.g.:Decadence, Thomas Mann (Die Buddenbrooks, short stories, Der Zauberberg), Rainer Maria Rilke (poetry, Die Aufzeichnungen des Malte Laurids Brigge), Wiener Moderne (Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal), Frank Wedekind (Frühlings Erwachen, Der Erdgeist); Franziska zu Reventlow, Franz Kafka (Das Urteil, Die Verwandlung, In der Strafkolonie, novels); expressionism, poetry (Georg Heym, Georg Trakl, Gottfried Benn, August Stramm), expressionist drama (Walter Hasenclever, Georg Kaiser), Dada (H. Ball, K. Schwitters), New Objectivity, war-themed novels (Ernst Jünger, Erich Maria Remarque), Alfred Döblin (Berlin Alexanderplatz, short stories), Hans Fallada (Kleiner Mann - was nun?), Erich Kästner, women writers of the interwar period (Irmgard Keun, Marie-Luise Fleißer, Mascha Kaleko), Else Lasker-Schüler (poetry, prose, drama), theatre in the interwar period, Bertolt Brecht (epic theatre, Die Dreigroschenoper), Austrian literature: Robert Musil (Törles, Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften), Stefan Zweig, Joseph Roth, Hermann Hesse (Der Steppenwolf), émigré literature (Anna Seghers, Judith Kerr, Klaus Mann), literature of the Third Reich, internal emigration, literature of persecuted writers, beginnings of literary life after 1945: Kahlschlag- und Trümmerliteratur, Heimkehrerthematik - W. Borchert (Draußen vor der Tür); Gruppe 47, World War II and the Shoah in poetry: Günter Eich, Nelly Sachs, Paul Celan.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Ability to analyse and interpret literary works, knowledge of the history of German literature up to the beginning of the 20th century.A prerequisite for attending the lecture is passing the German Literature exam in semester three. In exceptional cases, the instructor may waive this rule.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
credit interview on a selected topic	51.0%	80.0%
written completion of interpretation tasks during classes	51.0%	20.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	• Anz, Thomas: *Literatur des Expressionismus*, Stuttgart 2002. • Bark, J., D. Steinbach, H. Wittenberg: *Epochen der deutschen Literatur,* Stuttgart (Klett). • Beutin, Wolfgang (Hg.): *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart*, Stuttgart 2001 i n. • Fähnders, Walter: *Avantgarde und Moderne 1890-1933*, Stuttgart 1998. • Kiesel, Helmuth: *Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Literatur 1918 bis 1933.* München 2017 • Kiesel, Helmuth: *Schreiben in finsteren Zeiten. Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Literatur 19331945.* München 2025. • Neuhaus, Stefan: Grundriss der Neueren deutschsprachigen Literaturgeschichte. UTB 2017. • Deutschsprachige Nobelpreisträger für Literatur. Red. K. Ruchniewicz, M. Zybura. Dresden 2019, s. 169-185.
	Supplementary literature	Readings of choice:Thomas Mann: Buddenbrooks (or:) Der Zauberberg.Arthur Schnitzler: Fräulein Else.Frank Wedekind: Frühlings Erwachen (or:) Erdgeist.Franziska zu Reventlow: Ellen Olestjerne.Alfred Döblin: Die Ermordung einer Butterblume.Erich Kästner: Emil und die Detektive (or:) Der Gang vor die Hunde.Hans Fallada: Kleiner Mann, was nun?Irmgard Keun: Gilgi, eine von uns (or:) Das kunstseidene Mädchen.Stefan Zweig: Schachnovelle.Anna Seghers: Der Ausflug der toten Mädchen.Wolfgang Borchert: Draußen vor der Tür, short stories.Stefan George, Rainer Maria Rilke, Christian Morgenstern, Jakob van Hoddis, Georg Trakl, Georg Heym, August Stramm, Gottfried Benn, Kurt Schwitters, Bertolt Brecht, Kurt Tucholsky, Erich Kästner, Mascha Kaleko, Else Lasker-Schüler, Gertrud Kolmar, Bertolt Brecht, Paul Celan, Nelly Sachs: poems.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Interpretation of two selected literary texts in a literary-historical context (with reference to a literary era or literary trend).	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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