

Subject card

Subject name and code	Genres of popular literature II, PG_00145298						
Field of study	Creative Writing						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
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	2		ECTS credits		3.0		
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	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		43.0	75
Subject objectives	The aim of the classes is to familiarize students with the activity, genre specification and diversity of fantasy literature. A presentation of the basic uses of this popular literature. The seminar will also focus on presenting the cultural contexts of science fiction prose and various ways of interpreting it. The analysis will also be available in fantasy literary mechanisms for the reader.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[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 and cultural methods and theories to create interpretations and assessments of science fiction texts.		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work		
	[SKPL3_K02] Is ready to confront and verify the assessment of his own and other artistic, critical and applied works based on substantive opinions of specialists, including those in the field of literary studies.		The student is ready to confront and verify the value of artistic works (especially those belonging to science fiction literature) based on the substantive opinions of specialists.		[SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK6] demonstration of practical skills		
	[SKPL3_U01] Is able to find, select and analyze information in the field of literature, literary studies and cultural communication.		The student is able to find, select and analyze information about science fiction literature and its communication conditions.		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work		
	[SKPL3_W04] Knows and understands at an advanced level selected works in the field of the history of Polish and universal literature and art, guided by the criteria of literary studies, in particular the history of literature.		The student knows and understands selected works of science fiction literature at an advanced level and has knowledge of their genre specificity.		[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW5] implementation of a problem task		

Subject contents	Semester 2: Science Fiction Science fiction (SF) versus fantasy. Connections with fairy tale, utopia, horror and fantasy. Genealogy of science fiction. Relationships with utopia (eutopia, dystopia), relationships with the Enlightenment, empiricism and the scientific worldview of the 19th century. Mary Shelley, Verne and Wells. Positivist and sociological sources of "hard" and "soft" science fiction. SF classic motifs. A novel about an extraordinary invention, a mad scientist motif, time travel, a trip to the Moon, a planetary romance, a robot as a new incarnation of an artificial human. Genealogy of science fiction. Sci-Fi and the expansion of popular culture: Hugo Gernsback and "Amazing Stories". American superhero comics and its connections with the evolution of science fiction. Early science fiction in cinema (A Trip to the Moon by Georges Méliès, Metropolis and Woman on the Moon by Fritz Lang, Aelita by Yakov Protazanov). Post-war science fiction motifs of expansion and invasion (in literature and cinema). New Wave - the birth of Inner Space, soft science fiction, sociological fantasy. Varieties. Hard science fiction, space opera, soft science fiction, cyberpunk (and derivatives), alternative history, dystopia, post-apo, Cli-Fi, etc. Afro futurism and Indigene futurism. Relationships between fantasy and various forms of counterculture. Hybrid varieties: science fantasy, new weird, post genre SF. Criticism and fandom. Science fiction studies, Hugo and Nebula awards. Polish fandom, Zajdel Award, Silesia. "Fantastyka", "Fenix" - Polish publishing phenomena. Writing canon. A. The World (Verne, Wells, Asimov, Bradbury, Pohl, Le Guin, Ballard, Zelazny, Herbert, Strugacz, Dick, Gibson, Miéville, Bacigalupi). B. Poland (Żuławski, Lem, Wiśniewski-Snerg, Zajdel, Huberath, Dukaj, anthology "Co greater flies"). Canon of cinema (and TV). A. World (US invasion films, 1950s; Kaiju films, Japan, 1950s; The Day the Earth Stood Still; Invasion of the Body Snatchers; Star Trek; A Space Odyssey; Stalker; Close Encounters of the Third Kind; TRON; E.T. ; Star Wars; Blade Runner; Total Recall; The Matrix; B. Poland ("Pirx Pilot Test"; "On the Silver Globe"; Sexmission; films by Piotr Szulkin, Bagiński's "Cathedral"). Canons of SF games (including computer ones) (Spacewar!, Space Invaders, Battlezone, Doom, Duke Nukem, Quake, Descent, Unreal, Half-Life, Deus Ex, Resident Evil, S.T.A.L.K.E.R., BioShock, Crysis, Cyberpunk 2077).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Systematic preparation and active participation in class discussions	51.0%	30.0%
	Preparation of a written final paper	51.0%	70.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature		
		- Asimov I., Magia i złoto. Eseje, przeł. J. Kowalczyk, Poznań 2000. - Gajewska G., Arcy-nie-ludzkie. Przez science fiction do antropologii cyborgów, Poznań 2010. - Handke R., Polska proza fantastyczno-naukowa. Problemy poetyki, Wrocław 1969. - Lem S., Fantastyka i futurologia, Kraków 1970 [lub późniejsze]. - Lemann N., Historie alternatywne i steampunk w literaturze, Łódź 2019. - Leś M. M., Fantastyka socjologiczna. Poetyka i myślenie utopijne, Białystok 2008. - Maj K. M., Światotwórstwo w fantastyce. Od przedstawienia do zamieszkiwania, Kraków 2019. - Mazurkiewicz A., O polskiej literaturze fantastycznonaukowej lat 1990 2004, Łódź 2007. - Narracje fantastyczne, red. K. Olkusz, K. M. Maj, Wrocław 2017. - Niewiadowski A., Literatura fantastycznonaukowa, Warszawa 1992. A. Niewiadowski, A. Smuszkiewicz, Leksykon polskiej literatury fantastycznonaukowej, Poznań 1990. M. Parowski, Czas fantastyki, Szczecin 1990. - Płaza M., O poznaniu w twórczości Stanisława Lema, Wrocław 2006. - Słownik literatury popularnej, red. T. Żabski, wyd. II popr., Wrocław 2006. [Wybrane hasła] A. Smuszkiewicz, Stereotyp fabularny fantastyki naukowej, Wrocław 1980. A. Smuszkiewicz, Zaczarowana gra. Zarys dziejów polskiej fantastyki naukowej, Poznań 1980. - Spór o SF, wyb. R. Handke, L. Jęczyński, B. Okólska, Poznań 1989. [Tu przede wszystkim artykuły Zgorzelskiego, Handkego, Eco, Callois, Okólskiej, Smuszkiewicz, Suvina, Stoffa i Lema.] A. Stoff, Lem i inni. Szkice o polskiej science fiction, Szczecin 1990. D. Suvin, O poetyce gatunku science fiction, przeł. K.M. Maj, Creatio Fantastica 2018, nr 2. A. Zgorzelski, Born of the Fantastic, Gdańsk 2004. A. Zgorzelski, Fantastyka, utopia, science fiction. Ze studiów nad rozwojem gatunków, Warszawa 1980.	

	Supplementary literature	• Clute J., Science Fiction. The Illustrated Encyclopedia, London - New York Stuttgart 1995. • Ilnicki R., Filozofia i science fiction: technoanamneza, Poznań 2014. • Lem S., Wejście na orbitę, Kraków 1962 [wybrane szkice]. • Leś M. M., Stanisław Lem wobec utopii, Białystok 1998. • Mazurkiewicz A., Z problematyki cyberpunku. Literatura - sztuka kultura, Łódź 2014. • Niewiadowski A., Polska fantastyka naukowa 1945-1985. Przewodnik, Warszawa 1987. • Polska literatura fantastyczna. Interpretacje, red. A. Stoff, D. Brzostek, Toruń 2005. • The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction, ed. by J. Clute, P. Nicholls, London 1999. • Ponadto eseje i publicystyka w czasopismach Fantastyka (1982-1990), Nowa Fantastyka (1990-), Fenix (1990-2001), oraz artykuły w Literatura i Kultura Popularna (1994-), Creatio Fantastica (2005-2019), Studia Poetica (2013-).
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Final thesis - an independently written short story form with a SF profile.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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