University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Myth and Magic, PG_00200717						
Field of study	Religious Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028			
Education level	Master'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			
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits	3.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	credit			
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		prof. dr hab. Andrzej Kowalski				
	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	To acquaint students with the views of philosophers and anthropologists on magical thinking and myth.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[RELMU2_W03] Possesses in-depth and specialised knowledge in selected areas of cultural studies, as well as in selected religious traditions, forms of religious life, and spirituality.	has structured, detailed knowledge in selected areas of cultural knowledge; has in-depth knowledge of selected religious traditions and collective forms of religious life and spirituality	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[RELMU2_W01] Has in-depth knowledge of the subject matter and methodology of the anthropology of religion as well as the historical development of religions. Demonstrates an advanced understanding of the relationships between religion, culture and society, enabling interdisciplinary cooperation with specialists from other academic disciplines.	has in-depth knowledge of the subject-matter and methodological specificity of the anthropology of religion; knows the historical development of religion; knows and understands at an advanced level the relationships between religion and culture and society, which enables interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work with specialists from other fields of science	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[RELMU2_U09] Is able to formulate complex research problems with precision in speech and writing, engage in scholarly debate, develop and critically evaluate research theses, and employ specialized terminology of religious studies.	precisely formulates complex research problems in speech and writing, puts forward theses and critically comments on them using religious terminology	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[RELMU2_W04] Possesses in-depth knowledge of religious experience and individualised forms of spirituality and religious life.	has in-depth knowledge of religious experience and individualized forms of religious life	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[RELMU2_U06] Analyses complex relationships between the formation of religious ideas and social, political and cultural processes, and identifies relations occurring between these processes.	detects complex dependencies between the formation of religious ideas and social, political and cultural processes and determines the relationships between these dependencies	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[RELMU2_U03] Creatively uses knowledge of religious studies and methodology to formulate hypotheses and construct critical argumentation	creatively uses knowledge of religious studies and methodology in formulating hypotheses and constructing critical arguments	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[RELMU2_U01] Independently searches for, analyses, critically evaluates, selects and synthesises information obtained from printed and electronic sources.	independently searches, analyzes, evaluates, selects and integrates information from written and electronic sources	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[RELMU2_K05] Critically evaluates their knowledge and social competences, and is able to independently and critically develop their knowledge and skills, taking into account their interdisciplinary character.	critically evaluates the knowledge, personal and social competences possessed; is able to independently and critically supplement his/her knowledge and skills, extended by an interdisciplinary dimension	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[RELMU2_K04] Actively participates in activities to preserve and update cultural heritage; establishes contacts with cultural institutions; is able to communicate in a competent and cultured manner; is able to use acquired knowledge while observing ethical principles	actively participates in activities aimed at preserving and updating cultural heritage; establishes contacts with cultural institutions; is able to communicate in a competent and cultured manner; is able to use the acquired knowledge in compliance with ethical principles	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents	Definition of magic and myth.History of views on magical and mythical thinking.Problems of magic and myth in anthropological interpretations.Practical use of the categories of myth, stereotype, ideology in contemporary social communication.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	oral exam	51.0%	50.0%
	presence	75.0%	50.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	L. Levy-Bruhl, Czynności umysłowe w społeczeństwach pierwotnych, Warszawa 1992 C. Lévi-Strauss, Myśl nieoswojona, wyd. dowolne. J.G. Frazer, Złota gałąź, wyd. dowolne. A.2. studiowana samodzielnie przez studenta M. Bal-Nowak, Mit jako forma symboliczna w ujęciu E. Cassirera, Nomos, Kraków 1996. B. Malinowski, Mit, magia, religia, Dzieła VII, Warszawa 1990. E. Cassirer, Mit państwa, Warszawa 2006 W. Thomas, F. Znaniecki, Chłop polski w Europie i Ameryce, t. 1. Organizacja grupy pierwotnej, rozdz. Postawy religijne i magiczne, Warszawa 1976.	
	Supplementary literature	T. Szczurkiewicz, Fazy rozwoju myśli ludzkiej (przednaukowej), Acta Universitatis Nicolai Copernici, Filozofia, nr 14, 1993, s. 11-27. Ł.M. Dominiak, Partycypacja i dyskurs. Mentalność pierwotna w badaniach L. Lévy-Bruhla, Nomos, Kraków 2015, część III. Tambiach S.J., Magia, nauka i zakres racjonalności, Kraków 2007. A.P. Kowalski, Myślenie przedfilozoficzne, Poznań 2001.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	lack		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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