University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Theories of Culture, PG_00200981		
Field of study	Ethnology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group 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	4.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit	Division of New World Anthropology and Ethnic Studies -> Institute of Anthropology -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Agnieszka Bednarek-Bohdziewicz	
	Teachers	dr Agnieszka Bednarek-Bohdziewicz	

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	22.0	48.0	100

Subject objectives

The aim of the lecture is to familiarise students with selected theories of culture developed within the contemporary humanities, which have significantly influenced anthropological theories of culture and man. To familiarise students with the main currents of the humanities and social sciences and the concepts of culture developed within them. Introduction to selected issues of contemporary cultural theories. To improve the ability to synthesise texts and apply theoretical tools.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[ETNOMU2_W04] Has in-depth knowledge of the relationship between ethnology and cultural anthropology and other humanities and social sciences	K_W04 Has in-depth knowledge of the relationship of ethnology and cultural anthropology with other humanities and social sciences, allowing for the integration of perspectives specific to several scientific disciplines in the field of selected cultural theories	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ETNOMU2_W03] Has well-ordered, in-depth knowledge in selected areas of knowledge about culture and religion, including the knowledge and understanding of the importance of promotion and protection of cultural heritage of Pomerania, Poland and the world	K_W03 Has a structured detailed knowledge in selected areas of cultural knowledge concerning historical, psychodynamic, semiotic, critical, media studies, neo-darwinist and posthumanist approaches	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ETNOMU2_W01] Has in-depth knowledge of the specific subject matter and methodology of ethnology and cultural anthropology, which they are able to develop and creatively apply in professional activity	K_W01 Has in-depth knowledge of the thematic and methodological specificity of cultural anthropology against the background of the major theories of culture and man of contemporary humanities	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[ETNOMU2_U14] Can work in a group with different roles, including leadership	K_U14 Able to work in a group taking on different roles within it.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_U05] Has the ability to integrate knowledge in the field of ethnology and cultural anthropology, and to apply it in non-typical professional situations	K_U05 Has the ability to integrate knowledge in the field of cultural anthropology and to combine it with other theoretical approaches in the field of selected conceptions of culture	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_K01] Critically evaluates acquired knowledge, personal and social competences; is prepared to critically evaluate information received	K_K01 Critically evaluates his/her knowledge in the field of selected cultural theories, personal and social competences; is ready to critically evaluate received information in the field of communications from the contemporary public sphere of societies from the circle of Euro-American cultures.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_U07] Has the ability to argue substantively using their own views and those of other authors, to formulate conclusions and produce synthetic summaries	K_U07 Has the ability to argue substantively using one's own views and those of other authors, to formulate conclusions and to produce synthetic summaries in the field of selected cultural theories	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_K02] Is prepared to initiate and actively participate in activities for the preservation of national and world cultural heritage	K_K02 Is prepared to actively participate in activities aimed at the preservation of cultural heritage, is able to engage in discussion, pose a problem and propose ways to solve it	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_U06] Is able to carry out a critical analysis and interpretation of various types of cultural products, applying original approaches, taking into account new developments in the humanities in order to determine their meanings, social impact, place in the historical-cultural process	K_U06 Be able to carry out a critical analysis and interpretation of different types of cultural products, using original approaches, taking into account new developments in the humanities in the field of selected cultural theories	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[ETNOMU2_U09] Communicates in Polish and/or foreign language using professional terminology specific to ethnology and cultural anthropology	K_U09 Communicates in Polish and/or foreign language using professional terminology appropriate for ethnology and cultural anthropology using concepts appropriate for non-anthropological theories of culture	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents	A map of cultural theory in the humanities and social sciences Psychoanalysis Cultural psychoanalysis Frankfurt School and studies of mass and popular culture Modern and post-modern society Postmodernism Non-classical historiography I: the Annales school Non-classical historiography II: microhistories Neo-Darwinism Posthumanism Literacy studies Rene Girard's conception of the scapegoat
Prerequisites and co-requisites	

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
written test	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	D. Buss, Psychologia ewolucyjna, 2001 (wybr. rozdz.) F. Canetti,R. Odin, Paleo- i neo-telewizja, w: A. Gwóźdź (red,), Po kinie?, 1994 R. Darnton, Wielka masakra kotów, 2012 (wyb. rozdz.) E. Domańska, Nekros. Wstęp do ontologii martwego ciała, 2018 (wyb. rozdz.) E. Viveiros de Castro, Kosmologiczna deisis oraz perspektywizm indiański, Etnografia, 2017/3 R. Girard, Kozioł ofiarny, 1987 (wyb. rozdz.) D. Olson, Papierowy świat, 2010, (wyb. rozdz.) A. Eliott, Współczesna teoria społeczna, 2011 (wyb. rozdz.)
Supplementary literature	C. Barker, Studia kulturowe. Teoria i praktyka, 2005 B. Dąbek-Ostrowska (red.), Nauka o komunikowaniu. Podstawowe orientacje teoretyczne, 2001 A. Mattelart, M. Mattelart, Teorie komunikacji, 2001 E. Havelock, Muza uczy się pisać, 2006 Z. Rosińska, Freud, 1993 (wybrane rozdziały) Q. Skinner (red.), Powrót wielkiej teorii w naukach humanistycznych, 1998 D. Strinati, Wprowadzenie do kultury popularnej, 1998 J. Turner, Struktura teorii socjologicznych, 2004 (wybrane rozdz.)
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Briefly characterize the image of man and his culture in neo-Darwinism
Work placement	Not applicable

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