University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Writing Popular Science Texts, PG_00205597		
Field of study	History		
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 Optional subject group
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	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Institute of History -> Faculty of History -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Jan Daniluk	
	Teachers	dr Jan Daniluk	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	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	5.0	15.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students with useful tools for telling stories clearly in popular science texts. The goal is achieved by (1) teaching good practices in creating a popular science text on historical topics - the basic principles that should guide the author of such a text, including the principles of scientific honesty and journalistic ethos (2) teaching the principles and techniques of shaping the narrative in a popular science text based on the so-called workshop classic style that facilitates the formulation of a clear message in popular science texts.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[HISTL3_W07] The student has an advanced knowledge and understanding of the key theories, research methods and tools of the historian's trade, including those relevant to their chosen area of specialisation.	Knows various tools for the professional popularization of knowledge historical	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
[HISTL3_K02] Is ready to fulfil social and professional obligations related to the chosen specialisation and to co-organise activities serving the community in the areas of education and the promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of Poland, the region, and Europe.	Is ready to responsibly fulfill social obligations in the field of popularizing historical knowledge and promoting the cultural heritage of Pomerania, Poland and Europe	[SK3] text preparation/written work
[HISTL3_W11] Knows and understands the economic, legal, ethical and other conditions affecting various types of professional activity related to history, including the concepts and principles of industrial property protection and copyright law.	Knows and understands the basic concepts and principles of intellectual property protection	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
[HISTL3_U03] The student is able to communicate with others using specialist terminology relevant to history and related disciplines, including terms from their chosen professional specialisation.	Is able to communicate on historical topics using professional historical terminology, adapting the form and level of expression to the group of recipients of the message	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
[HISTL3_U06] Is able to prepare written work in Polish, correctly applying professional terminology and scientific apparatus	Is able to prepare texts popularizing history, addressed to: different groups of recipients, taking into account the specificity of various media	[SU3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents

1. Differences between popular science texts.
2. Popular places on the Internet (and offline) where historical popular science texts are published - Internet portals, magazines and articles in daily and weekly newspapers.
3. Ethics of publishing the author of a popular science text - in what situations (and in what not) we deal with plagiarism; Using Internet sources - how to use them without stepping on landmines.
5. How not to alienate the editor - frequent spelling errors that cannot be corrected by a text editor - overuse of capital letters in historical texts.
6. Avoiding showiness in popular science historical narrative - what words to avoid and how not to show off.
7. Selecting a popular science text on historical topics - whether each topic deserves discussion and how to find your niche.
8. Rules of the classical style in popular science texts:
a. The ability to eliminate excess text;
b. Bad habits - avoiding excessive security, professional narcissism and metaconcepts;
c. What is the "curse of knowledge" and how to avoid it: jargon translation, chunking and functional fixation;
d. Methods of maintaining consistency in the classic style:
-- A sentence as a tree in which we expand the branches;
-- Choosing the "actor" of the text -- identifying the subject of action and maintaining consistency in the paragraph;
-- Rules of priority -- first simple, then complicated, first well-known, then new.
e. Methods of creative presentation of history - examples of good ideas and practices for telling the past.
f. Writing in pictures - examples of creative writing using e.g. surprising comparisons

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Essey	50.0%	70.0%
Activity in classes	50.0%	30.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Steven Pinker, *Piękny styl: Przewodnik człowieka myślącego po sztuce pisania XXI wieku*, Sopot 2016
Supplementary literature	Joanna Kamień, *Podręcznik autora*, Gdańsk 2015.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

Work placement

Not applicable

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.