University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Experimental American Short Stories, PG_00206422		
Field of study	English Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	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	2	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Maja Wojdyło	
	Teachers		

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	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

The course familiarizes students with basic concepts of unnatural narratology, which are then combined with close readings of selected twentieth- and twenty-first-century short stories that feature transgressions of narrative logic, impossible narrators, and paradoxical storyworlds. The term "American" in the course title is used in a geographical sense, encompassing both North and South America; however, the primary emphasis is on North American texts.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[FAL3_U02] Properly uses the acquired subject knowledge to identify, analyze, interpret and explain facts, phenomena and processes in the field of English, linguistics and English-language literature, using concepts and methods in the field of linguistics and literature	Is able to effectively apply acquired subject-specific knowledge to identify, analyze, interpret, and explain facts, phenomena, and processes in experimental contemporary literature, using concepts and methods from unnatural narratology.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[FAL3_W06] Has advanced knowledge of the basic conceptual and terminological apparatus in the field of literary studies, in particular applicable to the study of English-language literature.	Has advanced knowledge of the fundamental conceptual and terminological apparatus of unnatural narratology.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[FAL3_W08] Has advanced detailed knowledge of Selected Topics in the field of literature and English-language literature.	Has advanced, in-depth knowledge of selected experimental American short stories.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[FAL3_K01] Critically evaluates the extent of their knowledge and skills, in particular in the field of the English language, linguistics and English-language literature.	Is prepared to critically assess the scope of their own knowledge and skills, particularly in the areas of unnatural narratology and contemporary American literature.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written

<table>
<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>• Unnatural narratology: relevant concepts and definitions;
• Some stories to be discussed during the semester:
Jorge Louis Borges – “The Garden of Forking Paths”;
Donald Barthelme – “Game”;
Ursula K. Le Guin – “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”, “Mazes”;
Leslie Marmon Silko – selections from Storyteller;
Margaret Atwood – “Bread”;
David Foster Wallace – “Here and There”, “Datum Centurio”;
Louise Erdrich – “Fleur”;</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td>ATTENDANCE AT ALL CLASSES IS REQUIRED UNLESS THE STUDENT HAS OBTAINED THE DEAN’S CONSENT TO FOLLOW AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY PLAN.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td><table><tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr><tr><td>Presentation</td><td>51.0%</td><td>30.0%</td></tr><tr><td>Test</td><td>51.0%</td><td>70.0%</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td><table><tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>Jan Alber, Henrik Nielsen, Brian Richardson (eds.) - A Poetics of Unnatural Narrative (2013)
Jorge Louis Borges – “The Garden of Forking Paths”;
Donald Barthelme – “Game”;
Ursula K. Le Guin – “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”, “Mazes”;
Leslie Marmon Silko – selections from Storyteller;
Margaret Atwood – “Bread”;
David Foster Wallace – “Here and There”, “Datum Centurio”;
Louise Erdrich – “Fleur”;</td></tr><tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>Jan Alber - Unnatural Narrative: Impossible Worlds in Fiction and Drama (2016);
Jan Alber, Brian Richardson (eds.) - Unnatural Narratology: Extensions, Revisions and Challenges (2020).</td></tr><tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td>Violations of mimetic conventions:
• Nonlinear temporalities;
• Metalepsis,
• Strange loop.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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