

Subject card

Subject name and code	Cultural Theories of Modernity, PG_00209812						
Field of study	Cultural Studies						
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 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	1		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Division of Culture Studies -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Magdalena Sacha				
	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		4.0		18.0	52
Subject objectives	Undertaking a broad reflection on the significance and legacy of the Enlightenment as a cultural formation of the Modern era: the early concepts of the age of reason, the development of the humanities and social sciences in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the currently observed decline of the Enlightenment legacy in the form of the broadly understood Anthropocene. The exercises are aimed at discussing specific texts and practicing skills such as presentations, written and oral commentary, and the ability to conduct problem-oriented discussions based on the scientific hypotheses being studied.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[KULMU2_U02] possesses a deep theoretical and methodological awareness that enables them to conduct advanced research in cultural studies under the guidance of a research supervisor. Is able to formulate, present, and defend their position and lead a debate. Is able to cooperate in the groups as well as lead its work.	The student possesses a deep theoretical and methodological awareness, enabling them to conduct advanced research in cultural studies under the guidance of a scientific supervisor, in thematic areas including the Enlightenment and the Anthropocene.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[KULMU2_K02] is ready to critically assess content and solve academic problems within the discipline of cultural studies.	Through an in-depth study of the development of cultural thought from the Enlightenment to the Anthropocene, students develop critical thinking based on the scientific paradigm characteristic of the Enlightenment. They are also able to critically evaluate the achievements of the Enlightenment.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[KULMU2_K03] takes care to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards in the field of cultural studies.	The student adheres to the highest ethical and professional standards of the cultural studies profession, recognizing the ethical dilemmas arising from Modernity. The student understands the importance of knowledge, skills, and experience in professional activities, referring to the biographies of creators from the Modern era.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[KULMU2_K01] understands the significance of knowledge, skills, and experience in professional activities.	The student has the ability to integrate knowledge from various disciplines of the humanities and apply it in unusual professional situations, particularly in situations requiring the interpretation of cultural texts.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[KULMU2_W06] familiarizes themselves with and comprehends advanced contemporary theories and methods for analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating various cultural and artistic texts.	The student knows and understands advanced contemporary theories and methods of analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of scientific texts in the field of cultural theories of the 19th and 20th centuries.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[KULMU2_W03] holds detailed and up-to-date knowledge about contemporary advancements in cultural and religious studies, art studies, as well as prominent research centers in cultural studies and the research directions pursued there.	The student has detailed, up-to-date knowledge of contemporary achievements in the humanities and social sciences, including cultural studies and religious studies, as well as art studies, and is familiar with leading centers of cultural studies and cultural research in Poland, Europe, and the United States, and the directions of research conducted there.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[KULMU2_W02] has an extensive understanding of the terminology in the fields of cultural and religious studies, as well as art studies.	The student knows cultural studies terminology at an advanced level.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[KULMU2_U04] has the ability to integrate knowledge from different humanities disciplines and apply it in unconventional professional situations.	The student has the ability to integrate knowledge from various disciplines of the humanities and apply it in unusual professional situations, particularly in situations requiring the interpretation of cultural texts.	[SU5] implementation of a problem task

Subject contents	The status of cultural studies as a scientific discipline in Poland, Europe, and the United States. The concept of culture: etymology, development, conceptual categories, contemporary discussions. The vision of human being in terms of culture. Enlightenment concepts of human nature. Culture and nature. Visions of man as part of nature: evolutionary approach, neo-Darwinism, sociobiology. Farewell to evolutionism: Cultural relativism (Boas, Benedict). Functionalism and structural functionalism (Malinowski, Radcliffe-Brown). The emergence of anthropology: The method of field research. Language and culture: cultural relativism, linguistic relativism, ethnolinguistics, cognitive science. Structuralism: de Saussure's structural linguistics; Lévi-Strauss's structural anthropology. Semiotics of culture: Barthes, Eco, Lotman. Confronting the past: historicism, microhistory, anthropology of history. Cultural memory the theory of "lieux de mémoire". Modernity and the Holocaust Postmemory of the Holocaust. Anthropocene utopias and dystopias.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Systematic attendance and participation in classes	34.0%	34.0%
	Written or oral exam.	33.0%	33.0%
	Presentation of a student paper, leading a class debate or a review of an academic book in the field of cultural studies or a critique of a selected text	33.0%	33.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Alan Barnard, Antropologia. Zarys teorii i historii, przeł. S. Szymański, Warszawa 2006. Rozdział 8: Strukturalizm. Od językoznawstwa do antropologii, s. 170-190. Zygmunt Bauman, Nowoczesność i Zagłada. Holokaust choroba czy produkt cywilizacji? Przeł. T. Kunz, Kraków 2012. Rozdział 4: Wyjątkowość i zwyczajność Zagłady [b.s.] Wojciech J. Burszta, Upamiętnianie jako forma praktyki kulturowej, [w:] Znaki (nie)pamięci. Teoria i praktyka upamiętniania w Polsce, red. M. Fabiszak, A.W. Brzezińska, M. Owsinski, Kraków 2016, s. 15-27. Ewa Domańska, Mikrohistorie. Spotkania w międzyświatach, Poznań 1999. Rozdział 1: Dyskusje o końcach historii, s. 35-50. Terry Eagleton, Po co nam kultura?, przeł. A. Górny, Warszawa 2012, rozdział 1: Wersje kultury. Umberto Eco, Superman w literaturze masowej. Powieść popularna: między retoryką a ideologią, przeł. J. Ugniewska, Kraków 2008. Tu rozdział: Struktury narracyjne u Fleminga, s. 192-246. Kognitywne podstawy języka i językoznawstwa, red. Elżbieta Tabakowska, Kraków 2001. Rozdz. I: Kognitywne podstawy języka: język i myśl, s. 15- 44. Rozdz. VI: Język, kultura i znaczenie. Semantyka międzykulturowa, s. 175-202. Claude Lévi-Strauss, Antropologia strukturalna, Warszawa 2000. Rozdział XI: Struktura mitów, s. 185-208. Bronisław Malinowski, Argonauci Zachodniego Pacyfiku. Relacje o poczynaniach i przygodach krajowców z Nowej Gwinei, przeł. B. Olszewska Dyonizak i S. Szynkiewicz, Warszawa 1987. Tu: Wprowadzenie. Przedmiot, zakres i metoda niniejszych badań, s. 27-58. Bronisław Malinowski, Naukowa teoria kultury, [w:] idem, Szkice z teorii kultury, Warszawa 1958. Marshall Sahlins, Krytyka wulgarnej socjobiologii. [W:] Człowiek, zwierzę społeczne, wyb. B. Szacka, J. Szacki, Warszawa 1991, s. 397-406. Andrzej Szpociński, Miejsca pamięci (lieux de mémoire), Teksty Drugie, 2008, 4, s. 11-20. Edward O. Wilson: Moralność genu, przeł. J. Szacki, s. 277-281. Od socjobiologii do socjologii, przeł. J. Szacki, s. 282-294. Socjobiologia zwierząt i człowieka, przeł. J. Szacki, s. 295-308. W: Człowiek, zwierzę społeczne, wyb. B. Szacka, J. Szacki, Warszawa 1991. Bogusław Żyłko, Roland Barthes lata sześćdziesiąte, [w:] Imperium Rolanda Barthesa, red. A. Grzegorzczak, A. Kaczmarek, K. Machtyl, Poznań 2016, s. 11-22.
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	Supplementary literature	Antropolog i jego magia: współczesne inspiracje twórczością Claude'a Lévi-Straussa, red. E. Nowicka, M. Głowacka-Grajper, Kraków 2013. Zygmunt Bauman, Retrotopia: jak rządzi nami przeszłość? Warszawa 2018. Zygmunt Bauman, Życie na przemiał, Kraków 2004. Zygmunt Bauman, 44 listy ze świata płynnej nowoczesności, Kraków 2011. Roland Barthes, Mitologie, Warszawa 2000. Ewa Bińczyk, Epoka człowieka. Retoryka i marazm antropocenu, Warszawa 2018. Peter Bondanella, Umberto Eco: semiotyka, literatura, kultura masowa, Kraków 1997. Ernst Cassirer, Esej o człowieku: wstęp do filozofii kultury, Warszawa 1977. Ernst Cassirer, Filozofia Oświecenia, Warszawa 2010. Georges Charbonnier, Rozmowy z Claude Lévi-Straussem, Warszawa 2000. Robin Dunbar, Pchły, plotki a ewolucja języka, Kraków 2017. Fred Inglis, Kultura, Warszawa 2007. Grażyna Kubica, Maria Czaplicka: pleć, szmanizm, rasa: biografia antropologiczna, Kraków 2015. Claude Lévi-Strauss, Surowe i gotowane, Warszawa 2010. Lub: Claude Lévi-Strauss, Trójkąt kulinarny, [w:] Antropologia ciała: zagadnienia i wybór tekstów, oprac. A. Chałupnik, Warszawa 2008. Jurij Łotman, Kultura i eksplozja, Warszawa 1999. Jurij Łotman, Uniwersum umysłu: semiotyczna teoria kultury, Gdańsk 2008. Desmond Morris, Naga małpa, Warszawa 2000. Modi memorandi. Leksykon kultury pamięci, red. M. Saryusz-Wolska, R. Traba, Warszawa 2014. Nowoczesność jako doświadczenie. Dyscypliny - paradygmaty - dyskursy, red. R. Nycz, A. Zeidler-Janiszewska, Kraków 2006. Od pamięci biodziedzicznej do postpamięci, red. T. Szostek, R. Sendyka, R. Nycz, Warszawa 2013. Polsko-niemieckie miejsca pamięci, red. R. Traba, H.H. Hahn, Warszawa 2012. Roger Scruton, Kultura jest ważna: wiara i uczucie w osaczonym świecie, Poznań 2006. Roger Scruton, Przewodnik po kulturze nowoczesnej dla inteligentnych, Łódź - Wrocław 2006. Semiotyka kultury, wybór i oprac. E. Janus i M.R. Mayenowa, Warszawa 1975. Jan Tuziński, Herder i herderyzm w Polsce, Gdańsk 1999. Michael W. Young, Bronisław Malinowski - odyseja antropologa 1884-1920, Warszawa 2008
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	According to the provided course program	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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