

Subject card

Subject name and code	Positivistic Literature, PG_00211156						
Field of study	Polish Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2027/2028		
Education level	Bachelor'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	4		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Magdalena Kreft-Świetlik				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15		1.0		34.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the worldview of the positivist period and its literary achievements. The classes provide a broad overview of selected topics and attitudes, ideas and contexts, great literary heroes and creators of the era, as well as the genres practiced. The result is also to improve the practical ability to analyze and interpret literary works.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FPL3_U06] Can assess the level of his competence and understands the need for continuous training and professional development in literary studies.	Student: • develops issues related to the literature of the discussed period, independently acquires knowledge constituting the basis for classes; • in practice, applies the acquired knowledge in the field of the history of Polish and general literature as well as poetics and literary theory.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FPL3_U01] Is capable of searching, analyzing, evaluating and selecting information in literary studies, using spoken and written sources available in different media.	Student: • uses traditional and modern sources of literary texts and scientific studies, bibliographies and dictionaries; • improves the ability to take notes, read quickly, and collect study materials.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FPL3_W02] Has an advanced knowledge and understanding of the history of Polish and world literature.	• is able to characterize the period of positivism in Polish literature, describe the worldview of the era, list the main ideas, trends and concepts related to it, describe the course and changes of the period, • can introduce representatives of the most important trends, camps, tendencies and attitudes present in social and literary public life, • has the information necessary to present the profiles of the most important authors of literature of the positivist period, their works, the issues they addressed and the characteristics of their style, • has knowledge about political, social and cultural life and literature in the lands of the three partitions, • is able to determine the place of positivist literature in relation to the literature of previous eras (especially Romanticism) and subsequent generations (e.g. modernism), as well as its place against the background of general literature, • discusses the changes in realism, as well as literary types and genres cultivated in the second half of the 19th century, including the diversifying and newly emerging ones.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FPL3_W01] Has advanced knowledge and understanding of the place and the importance of literary studies in the system of sciences and its subject and methodological specificity.	Student: • is able to show the dependence of literature on the socio-political-economic-cultural situation, • gains experience in interpreting and reinterpreting not only literary texts, but also all cultural works and linguistic messages; can correctly read fragments of texts with double meaning (Aesopian speech).	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FPL3_U03] Can implement at an advanced level research skills, including formulation and analysis of research problems, selection of research methods and tools, development and presentation of results, allowing to solve problems in the field of literary studies.	Student: • uses terms from the history and theory of literature when working with positivist texts; • distinguishes various forms of expression, is able to prepare a short oral statement on a given topic related to the literature of positivism and an interpretative statement; • proves, argues, compares, polemicalizes and formulates judgments about the often controversial and ambiguous attitudes of literary characters and the problems discussed, using his experience and observations of a social and psychological nature.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FPL3_K01] He is ready to critically evaluate the level of knowledge possessed and its usefulness in solving professional and research problems in the field of literary studies and linguistics.	Student: • is able to work independently, is able to educate himself, read additional books, undertake his own research tasks in the field of positivist literature, • broadens horizons and deepens awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of the 19th century and the relationships of representatives of this era with subsequent generations, • gaining knowledge about the pro-social attitudes of the generation of the second half of the 19th century, observing the process of shaping civic awareness and attitudes as well as the roots of current social and patriotic attitudes, • acquires knowledge about the sources of contemporary phenomena and attitudes (feminism and the issue of women's emancipation in the discussed period, the issue of anti-Semitism, fear of technological civilization and globalization), is ready to broaden and change his views, • notices and reflects on political, social and historical dilemmas, characteristic of the studied era (e.g. patriotism, betrayal, loyaltyism, fighting methods), and recurring in subsequent decades and generational discussions, • recognizes the importance of the presence of masterpieces as well as works by minorum gentium writers and works of popular literature in the totality of native literature.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	Lecture topics: terminology and chronology of the period; positivism as a literary period; positivism in historical and literary research; the most important political, historical, cultural and other events affecting the character of the generation; January Uprising of 1863; the "Main School" generation; positivism as a philosophical direction; reception of Western European philosophical and social thought in Poland (H. Buckle, H. Spencer, J. S. Mill, H. Taine, K. Darwin, E. Renan et al.); positivistic worldview; internal worldview evolution of the era (scientism, natural monism, determinism, evolutionism, utilitarianism, practicalism, legalism and loyalism, organic work and grassroots work, etc.); ideological and ideological programs after 1864; the most important slogans and "cursed problems" of the era; "Warsaw positivism"; Warsaw magazines and press development; the dispute between the "young" and the "old"; literary programs and discussions; journalism; development of realistic prose; from tendentious realism to mature realism; naturalism; creation and differentiation of new literary genres; literary criticism; the socio-political situation and the development of literature in the Prussian and Austrian partitions; theater, music, painting of the second half of the 19th century.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	It is required to complete historical and literary subjects from previous semesters, unless the instructor decides otherwise. Ability to analyze and interpret literary works, knowledge of the history of Polish literature and common literature of periods preceding the discussed literary era. In the case of foreign students, it is necessary to know the Polish language well enough to understand the content presented during classes and actively participate in them.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	oral statement	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Each time at the beginning of the semester, the instructor determines the scope of reading required to pass the course and the exam. List of recommended readings Borkowska G., Positivists et al., Warszawa 1996. Philosophy and social thought in the years 1865-1895, selection and ed. A. Hochfeldowa and B. Skarga, vol. 12, Warsaw 1980. Fita S., Generation of the Main School, Warsaw 1980. Kieniewicz S., Drama of sober enthusiasts. About people of organic work, Warsaw 1964. The book of a generation. In the circle of Polish readings of the post-January period, edited by E. Paczoska and J. Sztachelska, Białystok 1994. Kubicka J., At the turn. Warsaw positivists and self-help, Warsaw 2016. Kulczycka-Saloni J., Pozytywizm, Warszawa 1971. Kulczycka-Saloni J., Literary Life of Warsaw in the years 1864-1892, Warsaw 1970. Kulczycka-Saloni J., Knysz-Rudzka D., Paczoska E., Naturalism and naturalists in Poland, Warsaw 1992. Literature of the southern century. Creativity of the 1860s in the face of romanticism and positivism, edited by J. Maciejewski, Warsaw 1992. Markiewicz H., Positivists towards Polish romanticism, [in:] ibid., Literary consciousness. Dissertations and sketches, Warsaw 1985. Markiewicz H., Positivism, Warszawa 1999. Markiewicz H., Dispute about the positivist breakthrough, [in:] "Teksty Drugie" 1990, no. 5-6. Martuszevska A., Poetics of the Polish novel of mature realism (1876-1895), Wrocław 1977. Martuszevska A., Positivist parables, Gdańsk 1997. Positivism. Languages of the era, edited by G. Borkowska, J. Maciejewski, Warsaw 2001. Problems of Polish literature in the period of positivism. Series 13, edited by E. Jankowski and J. Kulczycka-Saloni, Wrocław 1984. Literary programs and discussions of the positivist period, ed. J. Kulczycka-Saloni, Wrocław-Warsaw 1985. The anti-positivist breakthrough in Polish cultural consciousness at the end of the 19th century, edited by T. Bujnicki and J. Maciejewski, Wrocław 1986. The year 1863. The birth of a new Poland, ed. M. Rudaś-Grodzka, B. Smoleń et al., Warsaw 2016. Skarga B., The birth of Polish positivism (1831-1864), Warsaw 1964. Main School. Circles of influence, ed. U. Kowalczyk and Ł. Książek, Warsaw 2017. Tomkowski J., My positivism, Warsaw 1993. From the house of slavery. The political situation and literary culture in the second half 19th century, edited by J. Maciejewski, Wrocław 1988. "Znak" 1996, No. 2: The legacy of positivism.
	Supplementary literature	1. Bachórz J., On the need to unite the Polish 19th century, [in:] "Wiek XIX" 2008, Vol. 1 (43). 2. The history of the Polish intelligentsia until 1918. Vol. 3. M. Micińska, Intelligentsia at the crossroads: 1864-1918, Warsaw 2008. 3. Jedlicki J., What civilization do Poles need? Studies in the history of ideas and imagination of the 19th century, Warsaw 2002. 4. Markiewicz H., Cross-sections and close-ups. Dissertations and historical-literary sketches, Warsaw 1967 (chapter: Dialectic of Polish positivism; Antinomies of the realistic novel of the nineteenth century; Literature of the period of positivism in the Polish and world perspective). 5. Romanowski A., Positivism in Lithuania. Polish cultural life in the Lithuanian-Belarusian-Livonian lands in the years 1864-1904, Kraków 2003.
	eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. The worldview of Polish positivism and its Western European patrons. 2. The Main School Generation. Explanation of the concept. Factors shaping the generation of positivists. 3. Positivists towards tradition and romanticism. 4. Fighting ethos and work ethos. Dilemmas and conflicts. 5. Polemics and discussions of the positivist period: topics, ideas, participants in disputes and loud statements. 6. Scientism - progress - utilitarianism. Understanding concepts and their importance for the generation. Literary realizations. 7. The literary program of the positivists. 8. Tendentious realism and mature realism. 9. Narrative in a novel of mature realism. 10. Historical novel in the period of positivism and polemics around it. Various models of the historical novel: Sienkiewicz and Prus.
Work placement	Not applicable

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