



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title			Code
Death Rituals, Ceremonies & Traditions: the Communicative approach			
Annotation			
This course serves as an introduction to the History of European culture, Communication and Art by looking at the practical application of theory. The course will cover several general topics including: philosophy of death and dying, tombstone as a mean of communication, history of European graveyard art, monument building policy, memory communication and tourism do death places.			
Lecturer(s)		Department, Faculty	
Coordinating: Kšištof Tolkačevski		Faculty of Communication Saulėtekio al. 9, I rūmai, LT-10222 Vilnius	
Study cycle		Type of the course unit	
First			
Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered		Language of instruction
face-to-face	Spring		English
Requisites			
Prerequisites:		Co-requisites (if relevant):	
Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5 credits	130	36	94
Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed			
This course is designed to help you understand Europe through the prism of the death culture and death communication. This course serves as an introduction to the History of European culture, Communication and Art by looking at the practical application of theories of communication. The course will give you the following competences: 1) Knowledge of the history of Europe's death culture and art; 2) basic knowledge of death in Western philosophy; 3) broader view of the diversity of Communication 4) ability to use in practice various theoretical approaches and doctrines about memory communication; 5) ability to form individual point of view and coordinate it in group work.			
Learning outcomes of the course unit		Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
-present knowledge of the history of Europe through the prism of death culture and art; -provide an understanding of the fundamental ways of seeing death in European culture -provide a broader view of the diversity of Communication -demonstrate an ability to use in practice various theoretical approaches and doctrines about memory communication;		Problem discourse, presentation, active studying methods (group discussion), research methods (search for information, literature reading), debate, guided tours to graveyards	Seminars, exam
-demonstrate an ability ability to precisely formulate arguments and speech in discussions, group work, debates; ability to form individual point of view and coordinate it in group work, discussions		Problem discourse, presentation, active studying methods (group discussion)	Seminars

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Thinking about death. Death and soul: Meaning and Philosophical discourse. Main thoughts about death in early Western philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle). Death, soul and Christianity (Thomas Aquinas). Death and Body: various ways of burying. Body and soil aspect: burials in catacombs, in under and around churches in Europe and Lithuania.	4		4				8	18	PowerPoint presentation based lecture, scientific literature analysis: <i>Laqueur...</i> , p. 35–54; <i>Menn...</i> , p. 102–117, <i>Fenwick...</i> , p. 173–184. Group work. <i>Aries.....</i> , p. 14–25, 27–45, 46–52. Guided tour to death place (church crypts).
2. Speaking about death. Sermons, hymns and poetry. Meaning making via communication. Why printing sermons? Variety of funerary customs. Ritual as a tool to understand culture.	2		2				4	10	Scientific literature analysis: <i>Zydek...</i> , p. 167–183, <i>Parisot...</i> , p. 174–192.
3. Spectating death. Show off burial customs in Early modern times. <i>Pompa funebris</i> . Funeral as a cultural phenomenon. Graveyard culture. Graves and tombs in Modern times in Europe and Lithuania.	2		2				4	10	PowerPoint presentation based lecture, scientific literature analysis: <i>Aries...</i> , p. 55–75, 76–82. Guided tour to death place (Bernardinai cemetery).
4. Remembering death. Tombstone as ‘Civil vitae’. Reading tombstones today. Practices of reading tombscripts in the past. Tombscripts telling stories. Pet burial as a mean of communication of modern Western culture. Graveyard as place for memory communication. Collective and cultural memory. Role of a monument in process of remembrance. <i>Les lieux de mémoire</i> . Funeral as a mean of (hidden) protest.	4		4				8	18	PowerPoint presentation based lecture, scientific literature analysis: <i>Assmann...</i> , p. 1–45. <i>Laqueur</i> , p. 137–141, 375–387. Guided tour to death place (Antakalnis military cemetery)
5. Visiting death. Thanatotourism and dark tourism. Communicating death and collective trauma. Dark tourism places in Europe. Dark tourism places	2		2				4	10	Guided tour to death place (Paneriai memorial museum). Literature analysis:

in Lithuania.									<i>Venbrux..., p. 41–49.</i>
6. Making death commercial. Cultural changes in Modern times and changes in perceiving and communicating death. Halloween and other forms of ‘tameing’ death vs ‘wearing black’ for mourning. Writing about death. Filming death: dark naratives in movie industry. Communicating hidden: propaganda in movies about death.	4		4				8	18	Scientific literature analysis: <i>Aries..., 85–107.</i> Group work based on watched movie.
Preparation for exam								10	
Review of exam score									
Total	16	4	16				36	94	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Participation, activity and preparation during seminars	50%	During the semester	5 points: student in perfect way participated in all discussions, debates and guided tours; took a leaders role in group work; made appropriate effort in making students report, answering questions etc. 4 points: student in good way participated in all discussions, debates and guided tours; showed an iniciative in group work; made good effort in making students report, answering questions etc. 3 points: student in good way participated only in part of discussions, debates and guided tours; worked in group work; made satisfactory effort in making students report, answering questions etc. 2 points: student in satisfactory way participated only in part of discussions, debates and guided tours; didn't make his role in group work, has made no presentations, reports etc. 1 point: student in apathetic way participated only in small part of discussions, debates and guided tours; didn't make his role in group work, has made no presentations, reports etc. 0 point: student attended to less than 2/3 of all seminars, did less than half of all tasks.
Exam (written test)	50%	During the exam session	Written exam made of 10 open and close-type questions (equal level); each question ratable for maximum of 0,5 points.

Author	Publishin g year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Thomas W. Laqueur.	2015	The work of the dead : a cultural history of mortal remains	p. 35–54, 137–141, 375–387.	Princeton, New Jersey; Oxford: Princeton University Press.
Peter Fenwick and Elizabeth Fenwick.	2008	The art of dying : a journey to	p. 173–184	London; New York [N.Y.]: Continuum.

		elsewhere		
by Phillippe Ariès ; translated by Patricia M. Ranum.	1990	Western attitudes toward death : from the Middle Ages to the present	p. 14–82, 85–107.	Baltimore [Md.]; London: J. Hopkins University Press.
Venbrux, E.	2010	Cemetery tourism: coming to terms with death? La Ricerca Folklorica,	61, p. 41–49	https://www.jstor.org/stable/41548466
Jan Assmann	2006	Religion and Cultural Memory: Ten studies	p. 1–45	Stanford University Press
Stephen Menn	2002	Aristotle's definition of soul and the programme of the De Anima. In <i>Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy</i>	Vol. 22, p. 102–117	Oxford University Press
Sylwia Zydek	2019	Communication in the Face of Death: the Meaning of Funeral Sermons in the Old Polish Epoch. In <i>Wroclaw Theological REVIEW</i>	p. 167–183	DOI: 10.34839/wpt.2019.2 7.2.167-183
Eric Parisot	2011	Piety, Poetry, and the Funeral Sermon: Reading Graveyard Poetry in the Eighteenth Century, In <i>English Studies</i> , vol. 92, is. 2	p. 174–192	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0013838X.2010.536686?casa_token=k7n9FGUGTiEAAA%3Aseos3uhCo55dze-7Fz8J467GXYBceWCa4SFFXByrIEbLIPJVIAYSi3Jvd6xDUGXVMFmwRN1BYpm7Tg
Recommended reading				
Paul Connerton	2003	How societies remember	p. 1–40	Cambridge University Press
Laurajane Smith	2006	Uses of heritage	p. 11–82	London, New York
Stone, R., P.	2006	A dark tourism spectrum: Towards a typology of death and macabre related tourist sites, attractions and exhibitions. Tourism: An Interdisciplinary International Journal,	54(2), p. 145–160	http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=5&sid=a7e2c7f2-f2a5-49ec-8aa5-567f2590d2d9%40sd-c-v-sessmgr01
White, L., Frew E.	2013	Dark Tourism and	p. 188–200	https://books.google.l

		Place Identity: Managing and interpreting dark places.	t/books?id=sJ0PYNG hwe0C&printsec=cop yright&redir_esc=y# v=onepage&q&f=fals e
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