



### COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

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Course unit (module) title	Code
Creative Journalism / Kūrybinė žurnalistika	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Dr. Kotryna Garanašvili	Department of English Philology Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
BA	Optional

Mode of delivery	The period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face to face	Spring	English

Requirements for students	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> English proficiency level: B2-C1	<b>Additional requirements (if any)</b>

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	150	32	118

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competencies to be developed
<p>What can journalism teach us about language, literature, and writing? The principles of journalistic writing can be found everyday, in many different platforms: the news, social media, podcasts, and elsewhere. We consume journalism all the time, but we're not always fully conscious of the powerful effects and possibilities that it offers. In this course, we will learn how to become more aware of journalistic writing and ways we can employ it in our professional and creative practice. There are many different ways to engage in journalism: interviews, essays, reviews, analytical articles, social media posts, and more. Journalism not only offers this variety of genres, but also contains universal qualities that can be applied in creative writing as well as academic research. During the course, the students will learn about the foundations of journalism and develop their voice, research abilities, and writing skills.</p> <p><u>Generic competences to be developed (as per the aims of the English Philology programme):</u>            Responsibility: will be able to set goals, choose and use resources necessary for the completion of a task, plan their time, and follow deadlines. Cooperation: will be able to work in a team by setting common goals, sharing information, and looking for solutions together. Intercultural competence: respect and openness to other cultures, the ability to work in a multicultural environment: will be able to understand the specifics of different cultures and to analyze and assess cultural contexts; will be able to study, work, and communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds and develop awareness, respect, and openness to cultural diversity. Problem-solving: will be able to identify problems and challenges in their own and related fields; will be able to identify problems by finding, analyzing, and critically assessing relevant information, generate new ideas, and choose the most optimal solutions. Openness to change: will be open to new ideas, strive to change, and be creative and innovative; will be able to evaluate the quality of their actions and achievements and will strive to acquire the competencies necessary for future change.</p> <p><u>Subject-specific competences (as per the aims of the English Philology programme):</u>            Essential knowledge and skills of literary science: perception of literature as a phenomenon and perception of literature as a scientific discipline. Understanding and analysis of English literature: the ability to analyze and interpret English literature as a phenomenon: will gain knowledge of the development of English literature, the most important authors, and the most significant works; will be able to analyze, interpret, and evaluate the phenomena of English literature in the wider context of world literature, using appropriate terminology and</p>

methods. Understanding English culture: will gain knowledge of English-speaking countries (especially Great Britain) and their socio-cultural context (aspects of geography, history, public policy, literature and art, mentality and self-awareness, customs and traditions, everyday communication conventions, etc.); will be able to distinguish the most prominent features of British culture, compare the culture of English-speaking countries with Lithuanian culture, and identify and explain similarities and differences. Essential knowledge and skills of literary science: perception of literature as a phenomenon and perception of literature as a scientific discipline: will know, understand, and be able to describe literature as a phenomenon and properly use and interpret the basic concepts and terms of literary studies; will acquire knowledge of the main branches and methods of literary studies. Ability to apply philological knowledge and skills in practice within and outside the University: will be able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills of English philology during communication and cooperation in an intercultural (and multilingual) environment, creating, translating, and editing various texts, teaching English as a foreign language, etc.; will be able to use modern information technologies, data resources, and research resources to conduct a literary analysis of English texts and present the results of analysis and/or interpretation to the public to contribute to the practical applicability of English philology studies (corpora, dictionaries, term banks, and glossaries, thematic websites, literature maps, etc.).

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<p>Subject learning outcomes: Through seminar work and presentations, students will demonstrate communication skills, and an ability to work both individually and in a group; through pre-writing assignments and term paper writing, demonstrate appropriate research and bibliographic skills, a capacity to construct coherent, substantiated argument, and a capacity to write clear and correct research-based text; through research for seminars and pre-writing assignments, demonstrate proficiency in information retrieval and analysis; through research, seminar discussion, and term paper writing demonstrate a capacity to question assumptions, to distinguish between fact and opinion, and to reflect critically on their learning process. Students will also learn to understand the relationship between literature review, theoretical framework, and conceptual framework as constitutive parts of a research paper: the students will learn to understand how literature review, theoretical framework, and conceptual framework help to build a foundation for a research paper.</p>	<p>The mode of delivery of seminars is inclusive teaching to benefit all students with their strengths and contributions to class discussions; to have a wider range of views and experiences which can lead to a more critical understanding of a subject.</p> <p>In-class activities consist of a variety of tasks such as discussion on the passages of the primary and background reading in class; adequately reporting on the content of the text (its extracts) read in class; thought-mapping, literary maps, and individual feedback from the instructor (if required).</p> <p>Homework assignments include reading primary texts and background reading and research from various sources to investigate the topic area in question, carrying out individual small-scale research, and preparing and delivering it in class.</p>	<p>See Assessment Methods and Criteria (pp. 4-5).</p>

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
Part 1. At the Edge of Fact and Story			10				10	30	Analysis and

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<p><i>The Most of Nora Ephron</i> by Nora Ephron (2013)  <i>The White Album</i> by Joan Didion Waters (1973)</p> <p>Theoretical background: <i>Encyclopedia of Journalism</i>, ed. Christopher H. Sterling (2009)</p> <p><u>Note.</u> The main reading texts (lists) will be uploaded on VMA platform. The teacher has the discretion to modify the reading texts and subtopics as needed.</p>								discussion of the texts indicated in the Content segment
<p><b>Part 2. Between fiction and non-fiction</b></p> <p><i>In Cold Blood</i> by Truman Capote (1965)  <i>Miller's Valley</i> by Anna Quindlen (2017)</p> <p>Theoretical background: <i>The New Journalism: A Critical Perspective</i> by James E. Murphy (1974)</p> <p><u>Note.</u> The main reading texts (lists) will be uploaded on VMA platform. The teacher has the discretion to modify the reading texts and subtopics as needed.</p>		8				8	30	Analysis and discussion of the texts indicated in the Content segment
<p><b>Part 3. From Reviews to Interviews</b></p> <p><i>Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews</i>, ed. Malcolm Cowley (1959)  <i>Encyclopedia of the Essay</i>, ed. Tracy Chevalier (2012)</p> <p>Theoretical background: <i>Introduction to Journalism: Essential Techniques and Background Knowledge</i> by Richard Rudin and Trevor Ibbotson (2013)</p> <p><u>Note.</u> The main reading texts (lists) will be uploaded on VMA platform. The teacher has the discretion to modify the reading texts and subtopics as needed.</p>		10				10	30	Analysis and discussion of the texts indicated in the Content segment
Written assignments (parts 1 and 2)		4				4	28	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>32</b>				<b>32</b>	<b>118</b>	
<b>Assessment strategy</b>	<b>Weight,%</b>	<b>Deadline</b>		<b>Assessment criteria</b>				
<p>The <u>overall grade</u> for the course is determined by two written assignments: Part 1 contributes 50 percent, and Part 2 contributes the remaining 50 percent. To successfully pass the course, achieving a positive grade (5) is mandatory. In the event of a failure, students have the opportunity to retake the failed segment during the retake session in February (see Retake Policy, p.4)</p>								

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Written assignment: part 1	50	28 October	<p>The written assignment will be centered around the analysis of texts covered in the course. Students should aim to craft well-structured responses that make a compelling argument. Additionally, it is important to employ literary terms and concepts accurately and effectively, while drawing upon the theoretical readings assigned and discussed in class. The assignment will be evaluated on a 10-point scale.</p> <p>Detailed assignment instructions will be made available in written format and can be accessed on the VMA platform.</p>
Written assignment: part 2	50	End of the semester	<p>The written assignment will be centered around the analysis of texts covered in the course. Students should aim to craft well-structured responses that make a compelling argument. Additionally, it is important to employ literary terms and concepts accurately and effectively, while drawing upon the theoretical readings assigned and discussed in class. The assignment will be evaluated on a 10-point scale.</p> <p>Detailed assignment instructions will be made available in written format and can be accessed on the VMA platform.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assignments are graded on a 10-point scale. Grades in the range of 4.5 to 4.9 are not rounded up to 5 due to the policy that negative grades are not rounded up to a positive grade. However, grades from 5.1 onwards are rounded up to the next whole number.</p> <p><b>Note on Academic Integrity</b>  In alignment with the university's regulations, as detailed in Article 53.2 of the Study Regulations of Vilnius University (view document), any form of academic dishonesty—including but not limited to plagiarism or cheating—will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the assignment involved. Furthermore, engaging in academic dishonesty will lead to failing the entire course. Additionally, students found guilty of such actions may face expulsion from the University.</p>		
Attendance requirements	<p>Students are required to attend a minimum of 70 percent of classes, reflecting the established correlation between academic performance and class attendance. Failure to meet this attendance threshold disqualifies students from taking the final assignment. Should a student miss over 30 percent of the classes, they will be advised to retake the course.</p>		
Retake policy	<p>The opportunity for a retake is available to both domestic and international students in the first two weeks of September 2026, on a date determined by the course instructor. Retakes are permitted exclusively for students who have met the 70 percent attendance requirement but did not pass the course. Additionally, retakes are intended for passing the course rather than grade improvement.</p>		

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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or weblink
Capote, T.	1965	<i>In Cold Blood</i>		New York: Random House
Chevalier, T., ed	2012	<i>Encyclopedia of the Essay</i>		London: Routledge
Cowley, Malcolm, ed.	1959	<i>Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews</i>		New York: Viking Press
Didion, J.	1979	<i>The White Album</i>		New York: Simon & Schuster
Ephron, N.	2013	<i>The Most of Nora Ephron</i>		New York: Alfred A. Knopf
Murphy, J. E.	1974	<i>The New Journalism: A Critical Perspective</i>		New York: The Scarecrow Press
Quindlen, A.	2016	<i>Miller's Valley</i>		New York: Random House
Rudin, R. and Ibbotson, T.	2013	<i>Introduction to Journalism: Essential Techniques and Background Knowledge</i>		London: Routledge
Sterling, C. H., ed.	2009	<i>Encyclopedia of Journalism</i>		Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications

Updated 2026-03-06

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