



## COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
<b>The Bible in Western Literature</b>	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
<b>Coordinator:</b> Doc. dr. Dalia Čiočytė	VU, Faculty of Philology, Department of Lithuanian Literature

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	Elective

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face and self-study	Autumn semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: none	Additional requirements (if any): none

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	58: 32 lectures, 16 seminars, 10 consultations	72

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>This course unit (module) forms student's ability to perceive the Bible as one of the main (side by side with Antiquity) intertexts of Western (European and American) mentality, to think analytically about the reception of the Bible in various forms of Western mentality, i. e. various periods of Western culture and art. Students will gain knowledge about the Christian tradition of Western thought.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<b>The students</b> - will learn about the Bible's origin, it's cultural status and significance;	Interactive lectures, group work, self-study.	Participation in the discussions during seminars (30 %), paper (40 %), final exam (30 %).
- will gain knowledge of the main principles of the Bible's narrative structure, its imagery structure and its semantics, the main principles of interpreting the Bible;	Interactive lectures, group work, self-study.	Participation in the discussions during seminars (30 %), paper (40 %), final exam (30 %).
- will gain insight into the main modes of the dialogue between Western literature and the Bible, about the Bible as "the great code of art" (Northrop Frye); will be able to analyze and interpret the biblical archetypes in literary works, comment on the biblical context of literary works;	Interactive lectures, group work, self-study.	Participation in the discussions during seminars (30 %), paper (40 %), final exam (30 %).
- will consider the axiological attitudes of Western literature and culture;	Interactive lectures, group work, self-study.	Participation in the discussions during seminars (30 %), paper (40 %), final exam (30 %).
- will be able to comment critically on the reception of Christian values in the contemporary Western culture.	Interactive lectures, group work.	Participation in the discussions during seminars (30 %), paper (40 %), final exam (30 %).

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
1. The Bible's origins, cultural status and significance.	2	2					4	4	Reading theoretical literature, reading the Bible, preparing for the seminar discussions.
2. The Bible as literature. The main principles of the Bible's narrative structure, the main principles of its imagery structure and its semantics, the main principles of interpreting the Bible. Literary masterpieces of the Bible (The Book of Psalms, Song of Songs, The Book of Job, The Book of Wisdom etc.).	6	2	4				12	10	Reading theoretical literature, reading the Bible.
3. The main modes of the dialogue between Western culture / literature and the Bible. Literary changing, transforming and deforming of the Bible.	2	2					4	4	Reading theoretical literature.
4. The biblical archetypes in literary works. The Bible as “the great code of art” (Northrop Frye). Dante Alighieri, “The Divine Comedy” (1307–1321). The archetype of <i>paradise lost</i> in William Shakespeare's tragedy “King Lear” (1608). Interpreting <i>man's fall and redemption</i> in John Milton's poem “Paradise Lost” (1667), Johann Wolfgang Goethe's tragedy “Faust” (1808, 1832), Hermann Hesse's “Demian” (1919), Albert Camus' “The Plague” (1947), in Flannery O'Connor's fiction. The motif of <i>existential hell</i> in the modern 20 <sup>th</sup> century prose.	10		4				14	12	Reading and analyzing literary works, preparing for the seminar discussions.
5. The figure of <i>Jesus Christ</i> in literature. Symbolical imagination in Selma Lagerlöf's “Christ's Legends” (1904). The problem of theodicy: Fiodor Dostojevskij's philosophical novel “The Brothers Karamazov” (1880); Christ as defendant in Michail Bulgakov's (1891–1940) novel “The Master and Margarita”. Philosophical implications of the figure of Christ in Oskaras Milasius' play “Saul of Tarsus” (1913). Jesus Christ as an allusion of a character in William Faulkner's “Light in August” (1932) and “A Fable” (1954), in François Mauriac's novel „L'agneau” (1954).	8		4				12	12	Reading theoretical literature, reading and analyzing literary works, preparing for the seminar discussions.
6. The Bible as an encyclopedia of literary genres.	4						4	6	Reading theoretical literature, reading and analyzing literary works.
7. An essay about the Bible in a chosen literary work and the essay's presentation.		2	4				6	18	Preparing an essay, presenting its thesis to the colleagues, reading and discussing the colleagues' essays.
8. Preparation for the exam, examination.		2					2	6	Repetition of the course material. Answering an open-ended question.

<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>				<b>58</b>	<b>72</b>
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<b>Assessment strategy</b>	<b>Weight, %</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b>
Participation in seminar discussions	30 %	Semester	The ability to consider the course topics in group discussions is being evaluated.
An essay	40 %	Second half of the semester	The ability to grasp and interpret the dialogue with the Bible in a literary work is being evaluated.
Final exam	30 %	Examination period	Two open-ended questions. The ability to explain the impact of the Bible upon the Western worldview is being evaluated.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Year of publication</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication</b>	<b>Publishing place and house or web link</b>
<b>Compulsory reading</b>				
		The Bible: The Old Testament, The New Testament: Revised Standard Version – Catholic Edition		<a href="http://jmom.honlam.org/rsvce/">http://jmom.honlam.org/rsvce/</a>
Alter, Robert, Frank Kermode (ed.)	1999	The Literary Guide to the Bible		Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press
Frye, Northrop	1983	The Great Code: The Bible and Literature		New York: Harwest / HBJ
Frye, Northrop	1990	Words with Power		New York: Harwest / HBJ
Ricoeur, Paul	1980	Essays on Biblical Interpretation		Philadelphia: Fortress Press
Liptzin, Solomon	1985	Biblical Themes in World Literature		Hoboken, New Jersey
Auerbach, Erich	2003	Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature. Fiftieth Anniversary Ed. Trans. Willard Trask		Princeton: Princeton University Press; 70 pages
Potkay, Adam	2006	The Bible and the Roots of Western Literature		<a href="http://www.learnoutloud.com/Audio-Books/Religion-and-Spirituality/Christianity/The-Bible-and-the-Roots-of-Western-Literature/3491">http://www.learnoutloud.com/Audio-Books/Religion-and-Spirituality/Christianity/The-Bible-and-the-Roots-of-Western-Literature/3491</a>
<b>Optional reading</b>				
Čiočytė, Dalia	1999	Biblija lietuvių literatūroje		Vilnius: Lietuvių literatūros ir tautosakos institutas
Čiočytė, Dalia	2013	Literatūros teologija: Teologiniai lietuvių literatūros aspektai		Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla
Gabel, John B., Charles B. Wheeler, Anthony D. York	2000	The Bible as Literature: An Introduction		New York: Oxford University Press
Schneidau, H. N.	1976	Sacred Discontent: The Bible and Western Tradition		Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press
Dyas, Dee and Esther Hughes	2004	The Bible in Western Culture		New York: Routledge
Earl Miner, Earl (ed.)	1977	Literary Uses of Typology: From the Late Middle Ages to the Present		Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press
Čiočytė, Dalia	2009	“William Shakespeare’s		Dozwil TG Schweiz: Edition

		Sonnets in Lithuania”, <i>In: Manfred Pfister and Jürgen Gutsch (ed.), William Shakespeare’s Sonnets</i>		Signathur, 439–447
Čiočytė, Dalia	2012	„Literary Interpretation of Society in the Period of Soviet Occupation“, <i>In.: Regina Rudaitytė (ed.), Literature in Society</i>		Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 248–259
Čiočytė, Dalia (sudarytoja) ir kt.	2018	Krikščionybė ir šiuolaikinė lietuvių literatūra		Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla