



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Cultural representations of gender and family	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atėnė Mendelytė Other: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dagnė Beržaitė, Dr. Ieva Bisigirskaitė	Faculty of Philology, Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
MA	Elective

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Lectures, seminars, individual study	Autumn	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: English (B2)	Co-requisites (if relevant): None

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit		
<p>This interdisciplinary course delves into the complex interplay between gender, family structures, and national narratives. Via a combination of lectures, seminars, and tutorials, the course addresses the historical, cultural, and literary dimensions of this complex and dynamic relationship. As a result, the course participants will gain insights into the ways in which individual identities are intricately woven into the broader fabric of societal structures. By examining various cultural representations of gender, this course promises a comprehensive exploration of gender studies, challenging preconceived notions and offering a nuanced understanding of the complex interactions that mold and reflect the multifaceted experiences of individuals within the context of the NBS region.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
The student shall be able to correctly apply gender studies terminology and conceptualize the notion of the family from a gender studies perspective;	Seminars, discussions, presentations, individual work	Discussions Presentations Written reflection
shall be able to identify and contextualize pertinent gender phenomena and their cultural representations in terms of historical, societal, political, aesthetic and regional issues;	Seminars, discussions, presentations, individual work	Discussions Presentations Written reflections
will be able to apply a variety of gender studies perspectives and methodologies to the analysis of new objects;	Seminars, discussions, presentations, individual work	Discussions Presentations Written reflection

shall be able to demonstrate critical, academic way of thinking when discussing and analyzing gender and family representations.	Seminars, discussions, presentations, individual work	Discussions Presentations Written reflection

Content	Individual work: time and assignments					Tasks for individual work
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Contact hours, total	Individual work	
1. Course introduction: Studying family and the national	2			2		
2. Gender and nationalism: Biological, cultural, and social reproduction (theory), emigrant mother experiences (interdisciplinary research)	2		2	4	13	Readings Discussions
3. “Good-motherhood” in conservative political discourse	2		2	4	10	
4. Gendered forms of resistance: Maternal/parental activism	2			2	10	
5. Classical literature: cultural context, the nation, and the family	2			2	13	
6. Education for girls, the ideology of the ideal girlhood and femaleness	2		2	4	10	
7. The representation of mother-daughter relationships in classical literature	2		2	4	10	
8. The ideology of the frame: representing/remembering family and the nation through family photography	2			2	12	
9. Documentary film, domestic ethnography, and the family	2		2	4	10	Readings, Discussions, Film Screening
10. Knowing oneself/remaking one’s familial bonds via autobiographical filmmaking	2		2	4	10	Readings, Discussions
Total	20		12	32	98	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Oral Presentation 1	25	Semester	Depth of analysis/observations (3 points), clear formulation of a thesis (2 points), ability to correctly choose and state one’s perspective, theory (concepts), method, and object (3 points), correct use of terminology (2 points)
Oral Presentation 2	25	Exam Session	Depth of analysis/observations (3 points), clear formulation of a thesis (2 points), ability to correctly choose and state one’s perspective, theory (concepts), method, and object (3 points), correct use of terminology (2 points)

Written Reflection	25	Semester	Depth of analysis/observations (3 points), clear formulation of a thesis (2 points), ability to analyze a chosen object (3 points), ability to ground one's analysis in a well-chosen theoretical, critical, and analytical perspective (4 points), correct use of terminology (1 point)
Discussions	25	Semester	Depth of analysis/insights (3 points), clear formulation of a thesis/idea (2 points), ability to correctly describe various cultural gender phenomena, give illustrative examples (3 points), correct use of terminology (2 points)

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Anderst, Leah	2013	"I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING at these images": The "Viewing 'I' in Contemporary Autobiographical Documentary"	<i>Contemporary Autobiographical Documentary, a/b: Auto/Biography Studies</i> , 28(2)	Routledge
Barthes, Roland (transl. Richard Howard)	2010	<i>Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography</i>		Hill Wang
Bourdieu, Pierre	1990	<i>Photography: A Middle-Brow Art</i>		Stanford University Press
Daniels, Jill	2017	"Blurred boundaries: remediation of found footage in experimental autobiographical documentary filmmaking"	<i>Journal of Media Practice</i> , 18(1)	Routledge
Hayden, Sara	2003	"Family Metaphors and the Nation: Promoting a Politics of Care through the Million Mom March"	<i>Quarterly Journal of Speech</i> , 89(3)	
Hirsch, Marianne	1997	<i>Family Frames: Photography, Narrative, and Postmemory</i>		Harvard University Press
Kačkutė, Eglė	2015	"Mothering in a foreign language: Silent and/or multilingual mothers in Dalia Staponkutė's The Silence of the Mothers"	<i>Women's Studies International Forum</i> , 52	Pergamon
Gradskova, Yulia	2023	"Maternalism and new imperialism in Russia: "good mothers" for a militarizing state—expectations,	<i>Frontiers in Sociology</i> 8	https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sociology/articles/10.3389/fsoc.2023.1192822/full

		implications, and resistances”		
Kuhn, Annette	1995	<i>Family Secrets: Acts of Memory and Imagination</i>		Verso
Renov, Michael	2004	<i>The Subject of Documentary</i>		University of Minnesota Press
Yuval-Davis, Nira	1997	<i>Gender and Nation</i>		SAGE Publications
Dostoevsky, F.		<i>Uncle’s Dream, The Brothers Karamazov (episodes)</i>		
		<i>Domostroi (episodes)</i>		https://books.google.la/books?id=wyaaycOneOwC&printsec=copyright#v=onepage&q&f=false
Tolstoy, L..		<i>Anna Karenina (episodes)</i>		
Recommended reading				
Пушкарева, Н., Белова, А., Мицюк, Н.	2021	<i>Сметая запреты: очерки сексуальной культуры 11-20 веков.</i>		НЛО
Гиппиус, З.		<i>Яблони цветут</i>		http://az.lib.ru/g/gippius_z_n/text_0270.shtml