



## COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title		Code	
The Image of the Monsters in Post-Soviet Literature			
Academic staff		Core academic unit(s)	
Coordinating: dr. Tomas Čenys Other:		Department of Slavic Studies, Faculty of Philology	
Study cycle		Type of the course unit	
BA		Individual	
Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction	
Face to face	Autumn	English	
Requisites			
Prerequisites: <b>English B2 - C1</b>		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><b>General Competences:</b> Develop the ability to interact interculturally, the ability to work in a multicultural environment and respect for other cultures; develop the ability to solve problems through analytical, critical and creative thinking.</p> <p><b>Subject competences:</b> develop an understanding of the specifics of the images of monsters in the Post-Soviet and European literature, their sociocultural context and historical background and the ability to explain it; develop competences of a literary researcher, the ability to conduct independent literary or interdisciplinary research, to analyse literary texts, to relate phenomena of monsters in literature to the wider historical, cultural and social European and Post-Soviet context.</p>			
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods	
Students will learn to interpret and give sociocultural context for literary text through the analysis of figures of monsters in post-Soviet and world literature	Problem-based; analysis of historical and cultural issues, analysis of texts using relevant concepts. Discussion of the readings, participation in the discussion	–Work at seminars: Participation in discussion of the read material, works presented by colleagues, initiation of discussions - 20%; Presentation - 30%; Final Essay - 50%.	
Students will be able to analyse the discussed text through the lens of different literary theories using secondary sources.	Academic research		

Students will be able to apply their critical thinking abilities and communicate their opinions regarding a variety of literary texts.		
Ability to solve problems by finding, analysing and critically evaluating relevant information.		

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction; Introduction to the concept and its terminology. What is Gothic literature? What is a monster in literature? How can it be defined? Presentation of the course.	2						2	10	Review of the Introductory lecture. Reading and discussing article by J.J. Cohen “Monster theory”
2. Monsters in Folklore. Perspectives of Vladimir Propp and Joseph Campbell.	4		4				6	14	Reading and analysing role of the monsters in Russian Fairy Tales: Russian Fairy Tales A Choice Collection of Muscovite Folklore. W. R. S. Ralston 112-148
3. Monsters in English gothic literature. Monsters as reflection of colonisation and emigration. Dracula by Brem Stoker. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Novella by Robert Louis Stevenson	4		2				6	14	Reading and analysing the role of female monsters in Gothic literature “Carmilla” by J. Sheridan Le Fanu
4. Monstrous gods of H.P Lovecraft. Philosophy of cosmism. Cosmic horror and fear of incomprehensible.	2		2				4	14	Discussing and analysing limits of depiction of monstrosity in “The Shadow over Innsmouth” by H.P. Lovecraft
5. Russian society as a “society of shapeshifters”. Monsters as agents of the State and as instrument of romanticizing of the secret services. Traumas of the past and Magical Historism in Russian Literature. Women as “Other” in Russian literature. Monsters in Russian nationalistic discourse. Monsters in texts of V.Pelevin, V. Sorokin, S. Lukjanenko, A. Ivanov, M. Elizarov	6		6				12	32	Reading and analysing Russian Post-Soviet “monstrous” society in: “Blizzard” by V. Sorokin, “The Food block” by A.Ivanov “Blue Lantern” by V. Pelevin “A Werewolf Problem in Central Russia” V. Pelevin
6. Overview and conclusions Expectations, requirements and assessment of the paper.			2				2	14	Research for the paper
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>14</b>				<b>32</b>	<b>98</b>	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Presentation	30%	During the course of the semester	<p><b>3 Points:</b> The presentation is highly relevant to the chosen topic, featuring novel information presented in a creative manner. It adheres to the standards of an academic presentation by clearly addressing the main issue, exploring key aspects, and presenting archetype of the monster.</p> <p><b>1.5 Points:</b> The presentation fulfils some academic requirements but lacks thorough analysis and contains several errors. It offers only a partial analysis of the figure of the monster.</p> <p><b>0 Points:</b> No presentation is prepared, or the presentation fails to meet the basic criteria for an academic presentation. The topic is underdeveloped, and there are multiple errors.</p>
Final paper	50%	Till the end of the semester	<p>The essay will be valued from <b>1-5 points</b> by following criteria:</p> <p><b>Clarity and strength of the thesis:</b> Does the essay have a clear, arguable thesis?</p> <p><b>Logical flow:</b> Is the essay well-structured with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion? Are the ideas presented in a logical order?</p> <p><b>Depth of analysis:</b> Does the essay provide a thorough examination of the genealogy of monsters in contemporary fiction? Are different interpretations and perspectives considered?</p> <p><b>Use of scholarly sources:</b> Is the essay grounded in relevant research? Are secondary sources, texts discussed during the seminar, and other supporting materials effectively utilized?</p> <p><b>Formal requirements</b> is the essay written in accordance with formal requirements? Are there quotations and sources present? Are all the sources mentioned in the essay noted in the bibliography?</p>
Participation in seminars	20%		For active participation and attendance of the seminars and lectures.

Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
1996	Monster theory: Reading Culture		University of Minnesota Press
1995	Skin Shows: Gothic Horror and the Technology of Monsters		Duke University Press
2010	Blizzard		Farrar, Straus and Giroux
2024	The Food block		Glagoslav Publications
2000	The Blue Lantern: Stories		New Directions
2010	A Werewolf Problem in Central Russia		New Directions
<b>1872</b>	<b>Carmilla</b>		<a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10007/10007-h/10007-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10007/10007-h/10007-h.htm</a>
<b>2007</b>	Russian Fairy Tales. A CHOICE COLLECTION —OF— MUSCOVITE FOLK-LORE		<a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/22373/22373-h/22373-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/22373/22373-h/22373-h.htm</a>
<b>2024</b>	Shadow over Innsmouth		New York: Weird Tales
<b>2008</b>	The Hero with a Thousand Faces		New World Library
2009	Morphology of Folktale		Austin: University of Texas Press