



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Postcolonial studies and literature / Postkolonializmas ir literatūra	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. dr. Almantas Samalavičius	Faculty of Philology Department of English Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
2nd	Optional

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

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Proficient English	Additional requirements (if any): Literary Theory, West-European Literary History

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	132	32	100

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
To develop an understanding of the purposes, scope, methods, and complexity of postcolonial studies; to be able to comprehend postcolonial approach/perspective as analysis of cultural contexts and literary texts as well as fiction; to be able to apply theoretical knowledge to practical analysis of cultural issues. Ability to interpret both fictional narratives and non-fictional texts as representations of postcolonialism in various geocultural contexts. The study of the relationship between postcolonial and literature examines the wide set of strategies, methods, and approaches. The analysis and interpretations of selected literary texts is intended to provide a broad understanding of globalised postcoloniality as a mode of literary and cultural criticism and practice. The course aims to introduce the most essential issues in cultural studies and ways of analyzing them are introduced in the class and through reading sources.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to apply knowledge of postcolonialism in academic discourse and outside it as cultural criticism; will be able to comprehend literature from a postcolonial approach, will develop the ability to integrate theoretical knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate individual judgments while analyzing and discussing literary and cultural texts;	The students are strongly advised to read and study texts from the Primary (Compulsory) list and make presentations on the required subjects/issues. In addition to these primary texts, students are expected to compile a bibliography of critical and theoretical works that they find	Contribution to class discussion; ability to formulate critical comments, evaluating adequacy of seminar presentation, examination paper meeting requirements

	necessary to resort to for reference. Discussion, presentation, interpretative strategies, critical approach	
Students will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study;	Academic research (source research, systematization of information), analytical methods, critical reasoning.	
They will be able to communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously;	Analysis of the text, interpretation, presentation, and contribution to class discussion.	
They will have developed the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.		

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. Introduction to Postcolonial Studies. The development of the concept of colonization and colonialism and the making of postcolonial studies and postcolonial criticism. Colonization and its effects on societies and cultures.	2						2	5	Attending the lectures, and doing home-reading of compulsory literature relevant to issues discussed. Giving questions and comments.
2. Decolonization and its discontents. Postcolonial theory as critical reflection on decolonization. The shift in postcolonial geographies and its impact on Postcolonial theory. Classical and forms of non-classical colonizations.	2						2	10	Attending the lectures, and doing home-reading of compulsory literature relevant to the issues discussed. Giving questions and comments.
3. New forms of colonialism: cultural imperialism and economic/cultural globalization. Postcolonial theory and criticism as forms/tools of resistance.	6						6	10	Attending the lectures, and doing home-reading of compulsory literature relevant to the issues discussed. Giving questions and comments.

4. Postcolonialism as literary discourse. Types of postcolonial literatures. Pre-colonial orality and the rise of literary genres under colonialism. The problems of postcolonial cultural and literary identity and its reflections in literature. The self and the other in postcolonial literary fiction.	6						6	15	Attending the lectures, reading the compulsory literature, and giving questions and comments on the subject.
5. Globalisation and inclusivity of postcolonial studies. Postcolonial criticism and postcommunist literatures as postcolonial discourses and narratives. Postcolonialism in Eastern Europe and the Baltics.	6						6	10	Attending the lectures, reading compulsory literature, and giving questions and comments on the subject.
6. Seminar I. Joseph Conrad. The Heart of Darkness			2				2	10	Reading and discussing the relevant critical material, and making a presentation on the chosen topic
7. Seminar II. Joseph Conrad. The Heart of Darkness			2				2	10	Reading and discussing the relevant critical material, and making a presentation on the chosen topic
8. Seminar III. Chinua Achebe. Things Fall Apart			2				2	10	Reading and discussing the relevant critical material, and making a presentation on the chosen topic
9. Seminar IV. Ričardas Gavelis. Vilnius Poker			2				2	10	Reading and discussing the relevant critical material, and making a presentation on the chosen topic
10. Seminar V. Ričardas Gavelis. Vilnius Poker			2				2	10	Reading and discussing the relevant critical material, and making a presentation on the chosen topic
Total	22		10				- 32	100	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
It is required to read all books on the Compulsory Reading List (not their summaries or plot descriptions available)		Throughout the term	A student is allowed no more than 30 percent of unexcused absences. Students with more than 30 percent of unexcused absences are not eligible for the exam.

online). Assessment requirements: 70 % seminar attendance is compulsory.			
A cumulative grade	70+30	Throughout the course	Grade formula: 70% written exam (3 open-ended questions) + 30% seminar performance (presentation and participation in discussion).
The examination is graded on a 10-point scale		Upon reading and marking the exam papers	Assessment criteria: Correct application of critical sources – 30%; Logical and plausible development of argument – 30%; Ability to form conclusions – 20%; Language proficiency – 20%.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or weblink
Compulsory reading				
Chinua Achebe	1969	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>		Green Fawcett Publ.
Joseph Conrad	1989	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>		Harmondsworth: Penguin
Ricardas Gavelis	2009	<i>Vilnius Poker</i>		New York: Open Letter
Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffith, Helen Tiffin (eds.)	1995	<i>Postcolonial Studies Reader</i>		New York: Routledge
Violeta Kelertas (ed.)	2006	<i>Baltic Postcolonialism</i>		New York: Rodopi
Jean Rhys	1966	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>		N.Y.: WW Norton and Company
Optional reading				
Ashok Berry and Patricia Murray	2000	<i>Comparing Postcolonial Literatures</i>		London: Macmillan
Arif Dirlik	1999	<i>The Postcolonial Aura: Third World in the Age of Capitalism</i>		Boulder: Westview Press
Alfred Lopez	2001	<i>Posts and Pasts: A Theory of Postcolonialism</i>		New York: State University of New York Press
Alberto Memmi	1967	<i>Colonizer and the Colonized</i>		New York: Grove Press
Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin	1989	<i>The Empire Strikes Back</i>		New York: Routledge
Robert C Young	2001	<i>Postcolonialism: A Historical Introduction</i>		Oxford: Blackwell

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