COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Post-Soviet Lithuanian Literature	

Annotation
In this course, we will trace the main developments of post-Soviet Lithuania literature. We will read the literary works written in the 1980s till present day and address such topics as: How has Lithuanian literary landscape changed after the collapse of Soviet Union? What were the major literary hopes and challenges? How does literary society relate to and reflect its dramatic past? What characterizes post-Soviet Lithuanian literature? We will apply theoretical concepts such as trauma, postmodernism, nostalgia, to interpret and analyze the texts.

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
Coordinating: **Other: dr. Daiva Litvinskaitė**	Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Bachelor	Elective

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Contact (auditorium)	Spring	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: None	**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: programme competences to be developed		
The course will contribute to students' better understanding of the development of Lithuanian literature during the 20th-21st centuries. Questions such as art and ideology, censorship, national allegory, innovative literary techniques, perception of postmodernism will be addressed either by focusing on Lithuania's cultural and historical context or in a comparative perspective of Eastern European literary tendencies which will represent Lithuanian literature as an integral part of literary map of the region.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
At the end of the semester, students will be: 1) familiar with the dynamic historical conditions that shaped the Lithuanian literary map at the turn of the century;	cultural-historical approach, overview lectures; independent study of literary sources; problem solving lecture, inclusive lecture, participation in seminars, group discussions;	participation in seminars, completion of seminar assignments; presentation; exam.

2) explain characteristics of post-Soviet Lithuanian literature and its relation with the past; 3) able to discuss literary directions that manifested after the collapse of Soviet Union; 4) articulate connections between post-Soviet Lithuanian and Eastern European literary tendencies; 5) able to apply theoretical concepts to discuss and analyze literary and visual texts; evaluate and interpret information.	comparative approach, inclusive lectures, overview lectures, work in groups; problem solving lectures, inclusive lectures, participation in seminars, group discussions; independent study of literary works; participation in seminars, group discussions and activities.	

Course content: breakdown of the topics	**Contact hours**							**Individual work: time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	**Contact hours, total**	**Individual work**	**Assignments**
1. Lithuanian Literature in Soviet period	2						2	**10**	Tomas Venclova “Colloquium with a Dissident Poet”
2. National allegory: the game with censors	1		1				2	**5**	S. Šaltenis “The Ever-Green Maple”, pp. 97-100
3. Modern trends and post-Soviet development in poetry	1		1				2	**5**	Poems by M. Martinaitis, S. Geda, V. Bložė, L. Sutema, A. Nyka-Niliūnas
4. Memoirs of deportees and their reception	1		1				2	**5**	D. Grinkevičiūtė “Lithuanians by the Laptev Sea”
5. Narrative of cultural trauma	1		2				2	**15**	R. Gavelis. *Vilnius Poker*, pp. 3-48
6. World of an outsider	1		1				2	**5**	J. Kunčinas. *Tūla* pp.1-50
7. In search of identity	1		1				2	**5**	S.T. Kondrotas “The Slow Birth of Nation”
8. Facing East	1		1				2	**5**	J. Ivanauskaitė *Gone with Dreams*, pp. 313-331
9. Post-totalitarian identity	1		1				2	**5**	S. Parulskis “Naked Clothes”
10. Art as game	1		1				2	**5**	J. Erlickas, excerpts

11. Searching for one's place	1		3				2	**12**	A. Šileika "Buying on Time", D. Markelis "Journey to Lithuania"
12. Women's literature	1		1				2	**5**	J. Ivanauskaitė "Red Dress"
13. Nostalgia for the lost world	1		1				2	**5**	G. Kanovičius *Devilspel*, pp. 1-39
14. Post-Soviet hipsters searching for meaning	1		1				2	**5**	G. Grušaitė *Cold East*, pp. 11-47
Preparation for presentation								**6**	
Total	**15**		**17**				**32**	**98**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Participation in seminars (students read literature before the class, participate in discussions, complete seminar assignments)	20%	during seminars	2 points: actively participates in all seminars, responds appropriately to questions, formulates problematic and accurate questions to audience, properly argues text analysis problems; 1 point: misses up to 3 seminars, participates in the discussion, answers the questions correctly, properly performs practical tasks; 0 points: does not prepare for seminars, hardly participates in the discussion. If student misses more than 30% of the seminars without a valid reason, participation score will be reduced.
Presentation (10-15 min) during the seminar	20%	throughout the semester	2 points: presentation is well structured; questions of the analysis are clearly formulated; analysis is coherent and adequate, conclusions are accurate. 1 point: the presentation corresponds to the topic, coherency and adequacy are lacking; 0 points: the presentation is not prepared or does not meet the criteria.
Exam consists of two types of questions: 1st question: knowledge of literary development, cultural contexts, authors and their works, themes, aesthetic preferences; 2nd question: analysis of the text.	60%	at the end of semester	Each question is worthy 30%. 3 points: understands the historical and cultural contexts of the era very well; excellently demonstrates knowledge of the development of literature; knows very well the artistic programs of the main authors, knows their works and aesthetics very well; noted connections with European literature; 2 points: correctly presents the historical and cultural contexts of the era, is able to describe the development of literature, knows authors and their works but presents the knowledge sporadically; 1 point: the knowledge about historical and cultural contexts of the era is partially revealed; knowledge of authors, their works, and their artistic programs is sporicidal. 0 points: question is not answered or does not meet the criteria. 3 points: excellent knowledge of the authors and works, excellent knowledge of the context; the problematic

			of the work, its originality of representation is insightfully discussed, analysis based on quotations from the work; 2 points: good knowledge of the authors and works, brief but correct knowledge of the context, problematic of the works is discuss in correct but somewhat general way; quotations are missing or redundant; 1 point: knowledge of the authors and works is inaccurate, no critical approach to the text, analysis of the text is too general. 0 points: question is not answered or does not meet the criteria. Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools may be used in assignments and assessments for this course only for auxiliary purposes (e.g., preparing presentation visuals). In all cases, students are expected to follow the guidelines for the use of GenAI adopted by the Faculty of Philology, as well as the principles of ethical conduct. Students who violate these provisions will be subject to the consequences established by Vilnius University regulations.

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Tomas Venclova	1977	„Colloquium with a Dissident Poet"	Lituanus, 23(4)	http://www.lituanus.org/1977/77_4_08.htm
Fredric Jameson	1986	„Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism"	Social Text, No. 15 (Autumn, 1986), pp. 65-88	
Saulius Šaltenis	1992	"The Ever-green Maple"	*Come into My Time: Lithuania in Prose Fiction 1970 - 1990*, ed. Violeta Kelertas, pp. 97-100	University of Illinois Press
Romualdas Granauskas	2002	"The Bread Eaters"	*The Earth Remains*, ed. Laima Sruoginis, pp. 174-194	Tyto Alba
Dalia Grinkevičiūtė	1990	"Lithuanians by the Laptev Sea"		http://www.lituanus.org/1990_4/90_4_05.htm
Karl E. Jirgens	2006	"Fusion of Discourse: Postcolonial/Postmodern Horizons in Baltic Culture"	*Baltic Postcolonialism*, ed. V. Kelertas, pp. 45-75	Rodopi
Violeta Kelertas	1998	"Perceptions of the Self and the Other in Lithuanian Postcolonial Fiction"	*World Literature Today*, 72(2), pp. 253-261	
Ričardas Gavelis	2009	*Vilnius Poker*	pp.3-48	Open Letter
Jurgis Kunčinas	2016	*Tūla*	pp.1-50	Pica Pica Press
Jurga Ivanauskaitė	2002	"Gone with Dreams"	*The Earth remains*, pp. 313-331	Tyto Alba
Sigitas Parulskis	2012	"Naked Clothes"	*Social Change: Contemporary Lithuanian Literature*, pp.85-91	Anthology

Juozas Erlickas	2010	“A Dash of Juozas Erlickas”	*Lituanus*	http://www.old.lituanus.org/2010/10_1_06%20Novickas.html
S.T. Kontrotas	2008	*“The Slow Birth of Nations*		https://kondrotas.com/?page_id=972
Antanas Šileika	1997	“Going Native”	*Buying on Time*, pp. 9-23	Porcupine’s Quil
Daiva Markelis	2010	“Journey to Lithuania”	*White Field, Black Sheep*, pp.49-55	The University of Chicago Press,
Jurga Ivanauskaitė	2002	“The Red Dress”	Lituanus	http://www.old.lituanus.org/2002/02_4_02.htm
Grigorijus Kanovičius	2017	*Devilspel*	pp. 1-39	Noir Press
Gabija Grušaitė	2018	*Cold East*	pp.11-47	Lapas
Recommended reading				
Ellen Hinsey	2017	*Magnetic North: Conversations with Tomas Venclova*		University of Rochester
Ed. Violeta Kelertas	2006	*Baltic Postcolonialism*		Rodopi
Ed. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas	2011	*Transitions of Lithuanian Postmodernism*		Rodopi
Ed. Benedikts Kalnačs, Jūratė Sprindytė, Jaan Undusk	2009	*300 Baltic Writers: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania*		Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

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