

Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Comparative Literature with Theory of Literature
Course Unit Title: The Classics of World Literature 2
Course Unit Code: 21KK032
Name of Lecturer(s): Assoc. Prof. Vladimir Gvozden, PhD
Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor
Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective
Semester (winter/summer): summer
Language of instruction: English or Serbian
Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face-to-face
Number of ECTS Allocated: 3
Prerequisites: /
Course Aims: <p>The subject introduces students to the fundamental topics of humanities, with the aim of familiarizing them with the basic practices of academic literary studies and the fundamental concepts of the history of ideas within the Western civilization sphere. Throughout the course, essential themes of modern literature (from Romanticism to the present day) are explored, but the emphasis in interpretation is placed on what canonical works mean to us today in the 21st century. Accordingly, questions of the nature of interpretation, textual and contextual fidelity, and the search for interesting and innovative approaches to classical works are raised, along with a discussion of movements in contemporary world literature and their implications for understanding literary and cultural history.</p>
Learning Outcomes: <p>Course outcomes include the ability to apply knowledge related to the formation of the canon of European literature and the development of modern subjectivity, as well as recognizing their elements in subsequent periods. Students acquire a grasp of fundamental principles of literary text interpretation, the ability to identify literary myths and their effects, and competence in independently interpreting and evaluating literary texts, as well as engaging in an in-depth examination of various phenomena within the broader field of humanities. They also gain knowledge in narratology (types of narrators, plot types) and discourses that challenge or expand the idea of classics (gender studies, postcolonial theory).</p>
Syllabus: <p>Introduction discussion: modern classics, literary canon, and contemporary world literature. Reading Balzac's novel "Father Goriot" through the lens of Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century." Baudelaire and Paris as the capital of the 19th century. The boundaries of the human: Frankenstein, man or monster? Reader's choice: Tolstoy or Dostoevsky? Realism. Naturalism. Psychology. Tradition. Epiphany. Stream of consciousness novel. Novel and myth (James Joyce, Franz Kafka). Aestheticism. Modernist formalism. Spatial form (G. Lukács). Existentialism (Camus). Modernism and/or the avant-garde. Influence of philosophy on the novel and influence of the novel on philosophy. "The Little Prince" and the nature of fantasy. Borges' labyrinths. Marquez, magical realism, and the prose of the "Third World." W.G. Sebald's "Austerlitz," the culture of memory, and the Holocaust as the breakdown of the humanistic paradigm. Influence of new media (radio, telegraph, film). World literature today. Literature and globalization. Literature and translation. Literature and the market. Postcolonial literature. Ethnoliterature. High and low literature. Feminism and women's literature. Reception of Serbian literature abroad (A. Tišma, D. Kiš, M. Pavić).</p>

Required Reading:

Primary sources:

1. Balzac, *Father Goriot*
2. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
3. Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du Mal* (selection, multiple editions).
4. Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
5. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
6. James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
7. Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
8. Camus, *The Stranger*
9. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*
10. Borges, *Selected Stories* (various editions).
11. Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
12. W. G. Sebald, *Austerlitz*

Secondary sources:

French Literature II, Belgrade, 1981, pp. 303-331; Karlheinz Stierle, "Baudelaire's Parisian Images and the Tradition of the Image of Paris"; George Steiner, Tolstoy or Dostoevsky; Albert Camus, "Hope and Absurdity in the Works of Franz Kafka," *The Myth of Sisyphus*; Theme issue on Camus (ed. V. Gvozden) in *Polja* magazine, 488, 2014; Judith Butler et al., *Feminist Disputes*; Edward Said, *Orientalism*; Jacques Rancière, *The Politics of Literature*; Theme issue on Sebald (ed. V. Gvozden, A. Bešić), *Polja* magazine, 469, 2011; Vladimir Gvozden, *Literature, Culture, Utopia*, Novi Sad, 2011.

Weekly Contact Hours: 2

Lectures: 2

Practical work:

Teaching Methods: dialogical, multi-medial, textual

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class participation	10	written exam	70
Practical work	/	oral exam	
Preliminary exam(s)	20	
Seminar(s)			

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.