

Erasmus – Courses in English, Autumn 2023/2024

Prf. Dorota Michulka, Institute of Polish Philology

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- 1. Are the Poles Traditionalist? Polish Contemporary Literature”**
- 2. „Crossing Boundaries. Polish Books for Young Readers – Then and Now”**

Courses will be delivered online: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Njc2OGJlZWUtMTFIMS00ZTFiLWE0NGUtNWY5NzZiMGY5YTMy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b71bef9-3b13-4432-b5f4-1f5ac2278d0c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229c16a8d0-5aa2-4315-a7b2-6faedb765320%22%7d

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Wednesday: 15.30 – 17.00 (Are the Poles Traditionalist? Polish Contemporary Literature”)

Wednesday: 17.15 – 18.45 („Crossing Boundaries. Polish Books for Young Readers – Then and Now”).

Description of the Courses

1. “Are the Poles Traditionalist? Polish Contemporary Literature”

The course will present and examine Polish Contemporary Literature and try to answer for the question: are the Poles traditionalists? The aim of the seminar is to present cultural diversity and relations with Polish tradition – e.g. romanticism. During the seminar several important issues and terms will be discussed such as: Polish identity (based on culture, history and literary studies); Polish Nobel Prize Winners; contemporary time and romanticism; fight with myths; literature in 1945-1956 and the breakthrough year of 1956 (1956-1968); generation of "Współczesność" and coming to the terms with the period of "errors and abuse"; new treatment of the subject of the war, development of prose on rural subject, problem of Jews (Tadeusz Konwicki, Andrzej Szczypiorski, Wiesław Myśliwski, Hanna Krall, Paweł Huelle, Stefan Chwin); dilemmas in prose and drama; grotesque and absurd in texts of Stanisław Mrozek and Witold Gombrowicz; science fiction – Stanisław Lem (2x); Polish Children's Literature – Janusz Korczak and his *King Matthew the First*; prose of martial law (1980- 1991), "Orange Alternative", poetry of "bruLion" - group and generation of 90.; reportages of Ryszard Kapuściński; discussing with past – poet Tadeusz Różewicz; philosophy of life in poetry of Zbigniew Herbert – *Mr Cogito*; women literature (e.g. Manuela Gretkowska, Olga Tokarczuk); Polish cabarets, illustrative satires (Andrzej

Mleczko) and aphoristic way of presenting the world – S. J. Lec; Polish fantasy – crossing boundaries (Dorota Terakowska, Andrzej Sapkowski); political changes after 1989 and some examples of the literature of 90. Special attention will be given to the questions and problems: is there still domestic space? (Andrzej Stasiuk, Olga Tokarczuk, Dorota Masłowska).

Lectures will be supported by presentation of illustrative material and films.

Duration: one semester – 30 h.

Completion requirements: oral presentation or essay

ECTS CREDITS: 3 ECTS – 30 h.

2. „Crossing Boundaries. Polish Books for Young Readers – Then and Now”

The course will present and examine topic: **what is the role of children’s books nowadays? Pure literature, visual art (illustrations, comics), entertainment (humorous aspects)**, a way to enhance one’s verbal and visual reception of the world (cognitive function), a factor in development of reading and writing competences (instrumental function), a cultural mediator in school education. It’s interdisciplinary in its character (e.g. commercial issues and publishers’ perspectives) and analysed within intersemiotic contexts (e.g. relations between words and pictures); books for children often: emphasise axiological/moral values, create emotions and ludic aspects. Changes (evolution) in Polish children’s literature (in the last 25 years). The same threads, motifs and themes recurring in both literature for adults and literature for children as well as the issues connected with the discourse (dialogue) between different disciplines (fields) of research (e.g. literary studies, culture studies and didactics) have elevated literature for children and teenagers ("separate", "the fourth" – next to high literature, folklore and popular literature) to a level where it should be treated seriously and with respect (e.g. J. Dukaj – grotesque and caricature in „Crowman”). **Literature and socioculture, psychology, and pedagogy** - „a departure from the autocratic Biedermeier model, which acknowledges unquestionable supremacy of adults over children, towards the paidocentric model that places children and their world in the center of society and culture”. **Literature and folklore** - a process of evolution from literature for children that is inspired (conditioned) by the adult way of thinking towards children’s literature in which the construction of a text is conditioned by the specific type of children’s imagination – children’s way of thinking, children's magic reception of the world, children’s folklore. **Literature and the media/new media** - a movement away from literary texts towards *picture books* and other means of cultural communication: films, comic books, commercials, songs – elements of audio-visual culture dominating the contemporary world of children (app-books).

Lectures will be supported by presentation of illustrative material and films.

Duration: one semester – 30 h.

Completion requirements: oral presentation or essay

ECTS CREDITS: 3 ECTS – 30 h.

You are warmly welcome!

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