Welcome to study at the Faculty of Languages at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń!

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Join us!
Candidates are most welcome to study at the Faculty of Languages at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. The NCU is one of leading academic centres in Poland and it is located in the beautiful gothic city that can take pride in its extensive cultural life and modern facilities. The Faculty itself is strongly connected with the city which was entered in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register in 1997. In 2012 and 2013 the Faculty was one of the winners of the best undergraduate study programmes competition organised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

By studying languages and cultures, the students of the Faculty will receive a solid knowledge and skills that are highly appreciated on the European labour market. Graduates of language and culture studies can pursue their professional paths as journalists, translators, diplomatic staff, teachers, animators of culture, specialists in legal language or copywriters. The Faculty provides opportunities to develop professional linguistic competence, to have a deep insight into the historical and contemporary cultures of antiquity, Poland, European and non-European countries (such as Australia, Japan, Canada, and the United States) as well as the Arab countries.
The Faculty enables its students to develop their research passions and interests through taking part in the activities of 30 research and artistic clubs and associations. Foreign students are offered support and assistance in finding accommodation in student dormitories.

Not only do experienced and professional university teachers share their knowledge and experience with students but also help them in everyday issues. Nearly all major language studies, including these in English, Balkan, German, Classical, Polish, Romance, and Russian, as well as culture studies can be taken as first and second cycle studies. The Japanese and Italian studies, knowledge of the Mediterranean culture and applied linguistics (French with Arabic or Spanish, and Italian with Spanish) offer first cycle programmes. The Faculty also runs courses for persons who want to learn Chinese.

The Faculty of Languages has been working very actively within the Erasmus Lifelong Learning Programme. Several hundreds of the Faculty’s students have gone abroad to study at foreign universities since 1998, and the Faculty admitted foreign students who expressed their willingness to study foreign languages and the Polish language. At present, the Faculty cooperates with sixty foreign partners; in the academic year of 2014/2015 the Faculty has admitted thirty students (mostly from Turkey, France, Italy and Germany).
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ABSTRACTS

WINTER SEMESTER

Dariusz Pniewski (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Postsecularism in Culture: literature, film and plastic arts
The course is dedicated to the analysis of relations between culture, religion and politics. It will present concepts and definitions of (widely understood) postsecularism, theoaesthetics and political theology as well as the origins of such phenomena and their relevance. Religious cultural models applied in presenting social and political ideas in the 19th and 20th centuries will be elaborated, including both regional transformations of universal European models (colonial influences in Africa [Senegal] and Asia [Japan, China]) and original cultural models which originated in Poland and Russia.

Anna Skubaczewska-Pniewska (20 h / 4 ECTS)
World Literature and Literary Awards
The course recognizes and examines the ways in which prestigious book awards for fiction interplay with world literature and global cultural landscape. This issue is approached by reading and analysing selected works by winners of Nobel Prize, The Man Booker Prize and The Man Booker International Prize, National Book Award and Miguel de Cervantes Prize, for instance Mario Vargas Llosa, John Maxwell Coetzee, Czesław Miłosz, Bob Dylan. Reading literature that transcends national boundaries helps to explore not only the varied artistic modes in which eminent writers situate themselves in intertwined global cultures, but also the problems of intercultural communication. Finally, such reflection provides a great opportunity to re-examine the concept of world literature itself.

Grzegorz Koneczniak (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Editing literatures in English across cultures: theory and practice
The aim of the course is to discuss selected typographical and editorial aspects pertaining to the creation, publication and distribution of literary works and cultural artefacts in English. The main focus is on the paratextual features of such works in the context of their existence and use in different cultures. The course participants will also develop basic desktop and digital publishing skills in designing covers, posters, blurbs, cultural and literary ephemera (show bills and programmes), and even short literary works
Justyna Weronika Kasza (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Reading across time, cultures, languages: cross cultural communication through world literature
This module explores the relevance of world literature to cross-cultural research in present-day humanities. We discuss how world literature provides an insight into world’s changing and colliding cultures. Students learn how to critically evaluate texts from diverse literary, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and share information on how people act, communicate and perceive world. The objective of the module is to examine how most recent social or political issues, including language, nation, ethnicity, gender, ethics, minorities are addressed by literary texts. We use our analytical and linguistic skills that shed light on the structures and functioning of a wide range of discursive practices that form individuals and cultures. This module offers students to develop a wealth of transferable skills and how to apply various interdisciplinary research methods: literary theories, social sciences, anthropology, cultural studies, linguistics (philology), translation studies.

Marcin Wołk (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Contemporary Polish literature: modern and post-modern poetry, fiction and non-fiction
The course presents some of the most eminent authors and leading themes in Polish literature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. It concentrates on literary representations of communist and post-communist Poland, artistic use of autobiography and the grotesque, fiction and reportage, evidences of Jewish heritage and accounts of the Holocaust, examples of feminist and gay writing. Literary output of such writers as Ida Fink, Witold Gombrowicz, Ryszard Kapuściński, Hanna Krall, Czesław Miłosz, Stanisław Lem, Sławomir Mrożek, Halina Poświatowska, Wisława Szymborska and Michał Witkowski will be discussed. The course aims to present Polish literature of the last decades in its artistic diversity and as a mirror reflecting contemporary Poland.

Izabela Duraj-Nowosielska (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Language in Communication: How it Works.
The lecture consists of 3 parts: the first one is a general introduction to linguistics; here some basic linguistic concepts are presented, such as: linguistic item, predicate, system, subsystems of language, speech act etc. With reference to a structuralist tradition, the lecture gives an overall idea of natural language functioning, thus building basic language consciousness among the students. The second part refers to pragmatic issues in linguistics, and it is devoted to mechanisms of interpreting indirect speech acts, to other pragmatic communicative rules such as “politeness strategies”, and also to some selected problems of psychology of communication. The third part discusses contemporarily burning issues of ethical usage of language, especially in the context of public interactions: it focuses on persuasive communication and – from ethical perspective – it presents in details some mechanisms of persuasion and manipulation.
Michał Głuszkowski (20 h / 4 ECTS)  
Language, culture and identity. Ethnic minorities in Poland.  
The lecture characterizes various aspects of minority ethnic groups’ life. Although national and ethnic minorities constitute less than 5% of the whole population of Poland, there are several ethnicities who had migrated and settled in Poland as well as different ethnic groups within Polish nation. First lectures are devoted to the problems of bilingualism, culture and identity, religion and general information on ethnic groups in Poland. The following lectures deal with various aspects of life of the chosen minority groups in Poland: Germans, Ukranians, Rusyns, Belarusians, Russians, Tartars, Armenians, Roma people and other ethnic and national groups. The ethnic groups within Polish ethnos – Silesians and Kashubians – are also described. The last two lectures are devoted to the relations between minorities and majority, and to the legal situation and minority rights in Poland.

Grzegorz Koneczniak (60 h / 8 ECTS)  
Academic English in multicultural perspectives*  
The course aims to involve students in a discussion of topical issues from multicultural standpoints. It offers a variety of topics related to such areas as culture, communication, arts, films and literature, media and technology. Course activities will also include the use of grammar and vocabulary in academic contexts, both spoken and written. Students are welcome to share and exchange their ideas in a multicultural university environment and by means of communicative language skills and competencies in English, developed at CEFR B2 level (IELTS band: 6).

* Please kindly note that this course is addressed only to students coming from universities with which The Faculty of Languages signed a bilateral agreement.
Dariusz Pniewski (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Retro-style crime fiction (Kryminał “retro”): Polish “vintage style” crime fiction at the beginning of the 21st century.
The aim of the lecture(s) is to present one of the significant currents of recent popular literature in Poland. The type of the crime fiction called “retro crime” is known not only in Poland but also in Russia and the Baltic States. In each country it has its own style. In general, a characteristic feature of this type of the crime fiction is the setting: some cities, presented in a specific time. Authors of Polish “retro crime fiction” prefer the turn of the 20th century or the interwar period – Poland’s twenty years of independence between the two World Wars, as well as the time of World War II and its aftermath. What is important is that the re-creation of the past is founded on documents, old maps and pictures and photos. That material is sometimes treated as an integral part of the book (attractive in form and content). Authors of “retro crime fiction” often included in the plot allusions to Polish culture, especially – literary culture. Therefore, aside from an attractive crime plot, a reader receives a wealth of information regarding the past of some Polish cities, the history of Poland, local history (cities), important cultural phenomena and figures important for Polish culture.

Arleta Szulc (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Introduction to Analysis of the Texts in the First Literary Language of the Slavs
The course "Introduction to Analysis of the Texts in the First Literary Language of the Slavs" aims at providing a basic theoretical knowledge on: (1) circumstances and conditions of the origin and development of the first Slavic literary language, (2) characteristic features (graphic, phonetic, morphological, syntactic) of the texts created in the language, (3) the importance of OCS to the evolution of Slavic languages and acquiring a practical ability to analyse the forms contained in excerpts from OCS texts as well.

Justyna Weronika Kasza (20 h / 4 ECTS)
‘Farewell, mother tongue’: reading Japanese literature translingually and transculturally
This module explores the notion of literary bilingualism and translingualism in contemporary Japanese literature. The aim of the course is to provide students with a general overview of Japanese literature written in foreign languages (English/French/German) or by non-Japanese writers (in Japanese), and to establish the parading of ‘mother tongue’ and to redefine the notion of ‘literary canon’ in predominantly homogenous and monolingual society. By making Japanese literature the case study, we evaluate how the frameworks of literary canon shift and change in a global age and how these transform the practices of reading, translating and circulating the literary texts.
Grzegorz Koneczniak (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Editing literatures in English across cultures: theory and practice
The aim of the course is to discuss selected typographical and editorial aspects pertaining to the creation, publication and distribution of literary works and cultural artefacts in English. The main focus is on the paratextual features of such works in the context of their existence and use in different cultures. The course participants will also develop basic desktop and digital publishing skills in designing covers, posters, blurbs, cultural and literary ephemera (show bills and programmes), and even short literary works.

Dariusz Brzostek (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Electricity and revolution. Cultural history of rock and roll
The theme of this course is an introduction to cultural history of rock and roll music, including the problems such as: the impact of electricity on popular culture, the African-American roots of pop music, technology of sound reproduction, rock and roll and electronic music, retromania in the modern popular culture, American rock and roll from New York to San Francisco,”British invasion”, krautrock, rock music behind the Iron Curtain, psychedelic music, the social origins of punk, Jamaican dub and sound system culture, afrobeat, Tropicália and japonoise.

Agata Domachowska (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Socio-political and cultural changes in post-Yugoslavia states
The purpose of the course is to advance the student’s knowledge of Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina – states that emerged after the disintegration of Yugoslavia whose polities and societies have been marked by the experience, consequences and legacies of the 1990s wars.

Jarosław Hetman (20 h / 4 ECTS)
The Art of Being Sincere. American Short Fiction After Postmodernism.
The class aims to introduce the students to one of the most recent movements in American Literature, New Sincerity, via a selection of short stories by some of the most accomplished contemporary writers: David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Franzen and Dave Eggers.
Over the course of our meetings we will be proposing sets of questions which will then form the backbone of our discussions on such topics as loneliness, consumerism and the aesthetics of commercial culture.

Bartosz Awianowicz (20 h / 4 ECTS)
Languages of ancient coins
The purpose of the course is to provide the Erasmus+ students with knowledge about ancient coins from the beginning of the coinage in the 7th century BC towards the end of the 5th century AD from a linguistic (especially ancient Greek and Roman / Latin, but also Lydian and Phoenician), palaeographic and epigraphic perspective.
Grzegorz Koneczniak (60 h / 8 ECTS)
Academic English in multicultural perspectives*

The course aims to involve students in a discussion of topical issues from multicultural standpoints. It offers a variety of topics related to such areas as culture, communication, arts, films and literature, media and technology. Course activities will also include the use of grammar and vocabulary in academic contexts, both spoken and written. Students are welcome to share and exchange their ideas in a multicultural university environment and by means of communicative language skills and competencies in English, developed at CEFR B2 level (IELTS band: 6).

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How to apply?

ACADEMIC YEAR
Winter Semester: from October to mid-February
Summer Semester: from mid-February to the end of June

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS
1 JUNE – full academic year or first semester students
1 NOVEMBER – second semester students.

The more detailed description may be found at
http://www.umk.pl/en/erasmus/students/applying/