

# Faculty of Humanities 2020-2021

## Courses on Offer

### Winter Semester

#### **Prof. Dr. Maciej Gaca (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

##### **Written Languages of Greater China Region**

The offer of the academic course on written languages of East Asian peoples from the cultural area of China aims to show the richness of the cultural heritage existing there. At the same time, basic concepts of the importance of having a written language will be discussed during the course. Students will be equipped with basic knowledge on understanding the social role of writing in the Chinese cultural area, the structure of particular written scripts as well as their spatial and temporal orientation. In addition, we will perform a historical analysis of political and cultural processes that influenced the development or decline of individual written languages. This thematic block will include, among others China's historical language policy and the language policy of the Government of the Republic of China and the PRC. On this basis, students will be able to attempt to assess the current condition of written languages in the Greater China region. The seminar will end with the project of building a full inventory of threats and survival conditions for selected endangered languages of East Asia as part of group work. The languages to be discussed are Dtomba (Nahsi); Li-ssaw (Lisu); Yi (Lolo); Nushu; Mongol; Manchu; Sui (Shui); Tangut (Xixia).

#### **Dr Grzegorz Konecniak (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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**Dr hab. Dariusz Brzostek, prof. UMK (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Remixing musical identity: Dub and reggae studies**

The topic of this course is an introduction to cultural history of Jamaican reggae and dub music, including the issues such as: a history of the African diaspora in Jamaica; postcolonial theory of Caribbean identity, the African roots of reggae music (burrup, nyabingi, mento, rocksteady and blue beat, ska); the social and political context of reggae; a history of Jamaican radio and early recording studios; dub mixing techniques, sound system culture; reggae and dub music legends (Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Lee „Scratch” Perry, King Tubby), Jamaican afrofuturism and a history of reggae music in Poland and the countries of the Eastern Bloc.

**Dr hab. Anna Skubaczewska-Pniewska, prof. UMK (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 John Maxwell Coetzee, Mario Vargas Llosa, Bob Dylan, Olga Tokarczuk. 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.

**Dr Izabela Duraj-Nowosielska (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Language in Communication: How It Works**

A series of conversational lectures is dedicated to those who would like to get some basic knowledge of the most important instrument they use in everyday interpersonal interactions, i.e. language – both in its theoretical aspect (how this “machinery” works while *producing* utterances) and practical aspect (how it works in particular communicative situations). The lecture introduces some more advanced subjects, too, referring to pragmatic interpretation of utterances and psychology of communication. Thus it may also be of interest to students who have already made their first steps in linguistics.

Thus, the lecture combines an introduction to theoretical linguistics with certain pragmatic issues, selected so as to throw the light on some contemporary problems in language interaction, both in a private and public sphere. The overall purpose is to raise students’

awareness as to how powerful an instrument they themselves and their interlocutors have at their disposal in everyday communication.

**Dr Rafał Toczko (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **The Rise of Early Christianity**

This course presents the development of the Christian religion as represented in the sources written during the first five centuries of Christian Era. From the apostles, through martyrs to the monks and bishops, we shall discuss the most interesting authors and personalities, the philosophical, social and institutional tensions, the theological ideas, and the quest for spiritual perfection in the late antique period. The main aim is to guide the students towards understanding of the diversity within the realm of Christian belief, complexity of forms of religious expressions and intricacies of the Church politics.

**Dr Małgorzata Lisecka (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Dystopia and Post-apocalypse in Movie and TV Drama: Musical Perspective**

Classes will include music analysis of cases taken from selected films and series which depict dystopian and post-apocalyptic scenery, from "MadMax" to "Chernobyl". Materials available on Netflix and HBO Go platforms will be used.

**Dr hab. Bartosz Awianowicz, prof. UMK (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 Phoenician), palaeographic and epigraphic perspective (including coin legends in Greek and Latin but also Lydian, Lycian, Phoenician, Hebrew, Etruscan, Iberian or Kharosthi). The course gives the opportunity to work with original ancient coins.

**Dr hab. Dariusz Pniewski, prof. UMK (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Sublime in Culture: Literature and Plastic Arts. From Burkean to Cyber Sublime**

The course is dedicated to the analysis of the sublime (aesthetic and philosophical category) and relations between culture, religion and politics. It will present concepts and definitions of sublime, and (widely understood) postsecularism, theoaesthetics, political theology as well as the origins of such phenomena and their relevance.

## Spring Semester

**Prof. dr Maciej Gaca (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Diplomacy in Practice - Language as a Double-Edged Weapon**

Diplomacy in practice - language as a double-edged weapon. The proposed series of lectures aims, based on real examples, to indicate the role of language in building or resolving diplomatic disputes in the East Asian region. Classes will largely be based on the personal experience of the lecturer who has worked as a diplomat in Beijing and Taipei for the past 10 years. Topics discussed will relate to the historical context of disputes, often emotionally characterized, as well as methods and strategies for interpreting them. During the classes, we will analyze the actual state of disputes, where rhetoric, specific wording as a reference point are the key to understand the existing tensions. An important element of the meetings will be the identification and formulation of the role of modern methods of persuasion for shaping public opinion in the face of the challenges of the regional political scene, presenting the optics of two or many sides of disputes.

**Dr 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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**Dr Krystyna Bojałkowska (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **What Is the Source of Human Language and How Children Learn to Speak**

The lecture is devoted to the phenomenon of human speech. The following issues will be discussed: – The origin of human speech;

– Typology of contemporary used languages in the world;

- Differences between human languages and animal communication systems;
- Neurobiological mechanisms responsible for human language and some effects of damage to these mechanisms (e.g. aphasia);
- Acquisition of a native language by a child (from birth to achieving communication skills allowing for efficient communication in the mother tongue – early school age);
- Factors conditioning speech development and their impact on communication skills of people in later life.

On the lecture many audiovisual materials and other types of aids (e.g. the neuroanatomical model of the human brain) will be used.

### **Dr 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. The course will introduce students to the history and culture of those states, drawing connections between current events and the historical past, by using historical, literary, and visual sources. What is more, it will also provide students with a comparative and theoretical understanding of the conflict and the process of reconciliation in the region. A concluding debate considers the potential future of the post-Yugoslav states. Course materials will include not only theoretical and historical readings, but also historical documents, literary texts and films from the region.

### **Dr Agnieszka Markuszewska (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

#### **Art of Book, Modern Typography and Printing Techniques**

The course is dedicated to the analysis of printing technique related to the editorial and graphic design process of various types of publications, such as: academic books (representing different academic disciplines), *belles-lettres* (poetry, drama, novel, autobiography, the collection of letters, diary), critical editions of literary works, the press, comic books, art albums, experimental book projects or bibliophile editions. The aim of the course is also to familiarize students with the specialised terminology associated with graphic design, art of editing, macro and microtypography (e.g. font, ligature, dingbat, drop cap, kerning, copperplate, “orphan”, “widow”, serif, gutter, bookplate). The second part of course refers to the main elements of book production. The role of book format, type of

paper, colour scheme, printing technique, binding design etc. significantly affects the receipt of the publications or its sale quality and poses a question about the limits of printing industry and the place of the book in the 21st century. Finally, the course concerns basic issues related to the functioning of a modern publishing company: how to effectively promote a book or magazine, where to find reliable information about new publications, how to distribute books, how to run a publishing company. The course will be combined with practical lectures at the Nicolaus Copernicus University Press.

**Dr hab. Marcin Wołk, prof. UMK (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.

**Dr hab. Michał Głuszkowski, prof. UMK (20 h / 4 ECTS)**

### **Language, Culture and Identity. Ethnic Minorities in Poland**

The lecture characterises various aspects of minority ethnic groups' life. Although national and ethnic minorities constitute less than 5% of the whole population of Poland, their social and cultural life is relatively vivid. During the lectures students get to know the minority groups' language situation, social problems and cultural identity. Their legal and political situation as well as relations with the majority are also characterised.

**Dr 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.