



Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Doctoral School of Languages and Literatures



The Ethics of Form and the Ethics of Sensibility. New Figures of the Literary Subject and Subjectivity

Prof. Mirosław Loba

Type of classes	seminar
Language of instruction	English
The number of hours + form of passing classes	20 hours / credit of a grade
Purposes of classes	This course aims to discuss the new figures of subjectivity and the subject that have emerged in contemporary literary theory since the poststructuralist turn. The concept of 'the subject after the subject' is a consequence of its reinterpretation by contemporary philosophy, particularly psychoanalysis. Subjectivity, viewed as a singularity with sensitivity and emotionality, influences identities, ways of living, and artistic and literary forms. This approach to the subject reveals the ethical dimension of literary and artistic practice. Ethical care becomes the main issue in literary experience, as if literature were an aspiration for a just and kind world, a remedy for despair and melancholy.
Learning contents	We will examine the origins and consequences of this change, as theorised by Barthes, Deleuze and Foucault, and consider how subjective experiences of unstable, singular life, such as melancholy, fear, love and despair, affect literary representations and forms. To this end, we will analyse the work of critics and philosophers such as Giorgio Agamben, Massimo Recalcati, Judith Butler and Byung-Chul Han, and compare it with literary texts by authors such as W.G. Sebald, Michel Houellebecq, Javier Marías, Zadie Smith and Orhan Pamuk.
Entry requirements	no

Learning outcomes	
	Verification methods:
<p>In terms of knowledge: A person who has completed classes knows and understands:</p> <p>the achievements of world science in the discipline in which the education takes place, as well as the paradigms and directions of development of this discipline, in a way that enables their creative and innovative development and their verification within the framework of research projects undertaken [E_W01];</p> <p>at an advanced level research methodology appropriate for the discipline of science in which education takes place, which allows for proper selection of research theories and tools and their effective application and modification within the framework of own research [E_W02]</p>	<p>Written studies (essays) Presentation Oral performance</p>
<p>In terms of skills: A person who has completed classes is able to:</p> <p>use knowledge from various disciplines of science to creatively identify, formulate and innovatively solve complex research problems or perform advanced research tasks. In particular, he/she is able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — define the objectives and the subject of scientific research, — formulate research hypotheses, — develop research methods, techniques and tools and apply them creatively and effectively, <p>draw conclusions on the basis of scientific evidence [E_U01];</p> <p>effectively retrieve information related to scientific activity from various sources, including from sources in foreign languages, and to properly select, critically analyse and interpret this information; furthermore, he/she is able to assess its relevance for scientific development [E_U02];</p> <p>establish and implement scientific cooperation in research teams, including international ones [E_U07];</p> <p>transfer the results of scientific activity to the socio-economic sphere in cooperation with institutions from the social and economic environment [E_U08]</p>	
<p>In terms of social competences: A person who has completed classes is prepared to:</p> <p>critical evaluation of the work in the field of the scientific discipline within which the education is provided and its own contribution to the development of this discipline [E_K01];</p> <p>fulfilling social obligations as a researcher; initiating actions in</p>	

<p>favour of the public interest, <i>inter alia</i>, through appropriate dissemination of scientific achievements in society. Furthermore, he/she is ready to take actions leading to the development of civil society based on knowledge [E_K03];</p> <p>thinking and acting in an entrepreneurial way, creating new ideas and searching - in cooperation with people from other disciplines - for innovative solutions, as well as taking up challenges and intellectual risk in the scientific and public spheres and taking responsibility for the consequences of their decisions [E_K04];</p> <p>continuous improvement of professional competence and personal development, in particular by tracking and analyzing the latest developments in the represented scientific discipline [E_K05]</p>	
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Agamben, <i>Homo sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life</i>, 1998. • R. Barthes, <i>A Lover's Discourse. Fragments</i>, London, 1990. • J. Butler, <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i>, New York 1990. • Byung-Chul Han, <i>The Crisis of Narration</i>, 2024. • G. Deleuze, <i>Essays Critical and Clinical</i>, 1997. • M. Foucault, <i>The Hermeneutics of the Subject. Lectures at the Collège de France</i>, 2017.