



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Representations of Gender in Contemporary Lithuania	

Annotation
This module focuses on contemporary Lithuanian fiction, poetry, nonfiction, media, and film from 1990s to the present by both male and female Lithuanian authors. The aim of this module is to practice reading these texts applying the critical approaches of gender and feminist studies. We will ask why it is important to read literature through the lens of gender, how gender is constructed in post-Soviet Lithuania, and how socio-historical dynamics is relevant in analyzing gender issues in literature.

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
Coordinating: dr. Eglė Kačkutė-Hagan Other: dr. Daiva Litvinskaitė, dr. Ieva Bisigirskaitė, dr. Dovilė Kuzminskaitė	Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Bachelor	Elective

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Mixed	Spring, Fall	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: None	Co-requisites (if relevant): None

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed

The course contributes to students' understanding of both gender theory and Lithuanian culture by analyzing gender perception and its reflection through literary representations in novels, poetry, short fiction, and film. We will ask questions about the identities these texts create and the stories they tell about gender and society.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
At the end of the semester, students: 1) will be familiar with the major concepts in the field of Gender and Women's Studies; 2) will develop an understanding of gender as a social and cultural construction; 3) will be able to discuss political, social, and cultural influences on gender;	Class discussion serves to introduce information, share opinions, insights and connect them with the material outside the class. Students will be asked to read literary texts at home and discuss them in class. In-class discussion will develop such skills as: listening to other opinions carefully, identifying arguments, to form one's own. Students will be asked to express their opinions	Assigned readings; in-class discussions

4) will be able to recognize and discuss representations of gender in literary and visual works;	respectfully and using gender sensitive language.	
5) will demonstrate adequate skills to notice, critically analyze, and discuss gender representations in other medium (music, film, advertisement, etc.) 6) will be able to apply literary criticism to the readings of literature; critically analyze gender perception and its rendering in literary form.		<p>For midterm evaluation, students will have an option: to write a critical blog entry or a review of particular text.</p> <p>For final exam, students will write a critical analysis of provided text or a text of their choice.</p> <p>These written assignments will respond to the material covered in class. They will help to assess the students' ability to comprehend the information received in class, connect it to an object of research, and formulate clear arguments.</p> <p>blog entry or review of particular text; critical analysis, (essay) of provided text</p>

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Introduction 1.1 Gender roles in Soviet and post-Soviet Lithuanian literature 1.2 Projection of G. Beinoriūtė's movie "The Balcony"	2								D. Leinarte. "Introduction" from <i>Family and the State in Soviet Lithuania</i> https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/reader.action?docID=6639953 https://zmonecinema.lt/filmas/balkonas-2008
2. Dismantling Patriarchal Plots 2.1. Power of image in J.	2								Vėra Šleivyė's photography

<p>Ivanauskaitė's "The Red Dress"</p> <p>2.2 Fear of the female body in R. Gavelis <i>Vilnius Poker</i></p> <p>2.3 Post-soviet masculinity in S. Parulskis' short prose</p> <p>2.4. Queerness old and new</p> <p>2.4 Objects of desire in contemporary Lithuanian poetry</p>								<p>https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63240815/foto-veros-sleivytes</p> <p>https://youtu.be/8MbarBXjCIE</p> <p>A Tereškinas, "Lithuanian men's struggles with precarious life: unemployment, working identities, and strategies of survival"</p> <p>N. Cibulskas, G. Bleizgys, A. Jakas, L. Kreivytė</p>
<p>4. Rethinking home</p> <p>4.1 Rethinking home: Woman's aspirations for a career in Daiva Markelis' "In the kitchen"</p> <p>4.2. Nation-Language-Mother: Intro</p> <p>4.3 Lithuanian ethno-linguistic nationalism</p> <p>4.4. Lithuanian good and bad motherhood</p> <p>4.6 Maternal activism</p>	2							<p>D. Markelis "In the kitchen"</p> <p>Vaicekauskienė and Šepetys: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-70926-0_8</p> <p>Film "We Need to Talk about Kevin" : available on Netflix</p> <p>Lina Buividavičiūtė poetry. Translations of will be provided in class</p> <p>C.Whetstone "Mothers for and against the Nation: Complexities</p>

									of a Maternal Politics of Care."
5. Conclusion	2								
Total	32						32		

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Blog post		midterm	<p>600 words: a blog post for the audience of peers that introduces a literary or visual text of choice and offers a brief analysis of the text through the lens of gender.</p> <p>Evaluation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding and correct usage of the theoretical concepts studied (0,5 points); - Ability to apply the theoretical concepts to analyse the text/phenomenon of choice and constructing clear arguments (0,7 points); - Coherence of the piece (0,3 points).
Essay		at the end of semester	<p>Essay 1500 words on the chosen topic of gender representations in contemporary Lithuanian writing from a given list.</p> <p>Evaluation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding and correct usage of the theoretical concepts studied (0,5 points); - Ability to apply the theoretical concepts to analyse the text/phenomenon of choice and constructing clear arguments (0,7 points); - Coherence of the piece (0,3 points).

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
L. Goodman	1996	<i>Literature and Gender</i>	"Introduction: gender as an approach to literature" pp. vii-xiv	Routledge
R. Gavelis	2009	<i>Vilnius Poker</i>	pp.12-17	Open Letter
J. Ivanauskaitė	2002	"The Red Shoes"	<i>Lituanus</i> 48:4,	http://www.lituanus.org/2002/02_4_02.htm
G. Radvilavičiūtė	2013	"Required Texts"	<i>Those Whom I Would Like to Meet Again</i> , transl. Elizabeth Novickas, 31-39	Dalkey Archive Press

S. Parulskis	2012	"Waiting for the Plumber"	<i>Social Change. Contemporary Lithuanian Literature</i> , trans. Jayde Will, pp. 85-87	International Cultural Programme Centre
L. Buividavičiūtė		Poems		In Vilnius review https://vilniusreview.com/poetry
L. Vaicekauskienė, N. Šepetyš	2018	"Lithuanian Language Planning: A Battle for Language and Power"	<i>Language Planning in the Post-Communist Era: The Struggles for Language Control in the New Order in Eastern Europe, Eurasia and China</i> , pp.193-218.	https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-70926-0_8
C. Whetstone	2021	"Mothers for and against the Nation: Complexities of a Maternal Politics of Care."	<i>Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement</i>	https://jarm.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/jarm/article/view/40627
J. Bučaitė-Vilkė & Tereškinas	2016	Lithuanian men's struggles with precarious life: unemployment, working identities, and strategies of survival	<i>Journal of Baltic Studies</i> , 47:2, 197-218,	DOI: 10.1080/01629778.2015.1105832
D. Markelis	2010	"In the Kitchen"	<i>White Field, Black Sheep</i> , pp. 85-90	The University of Illinois Press
D. Leinarte	2021	"Introduction"	<i>Family and the State in Soviet Lithuania</i>	Bloomsbury https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/reader.action?dclid=6639953
N. Cibulskas, G. Bleizgys, A. Jakas, L. Kreivytė		Poems		In Vilnius review https://vilniusreview.com/poetry
A.Tereškinas	2019	"Precarious Sexualities, Alternative Intimacies in Postsocialist Lithuania"	<i>Kultūra ir visuomenė: socialinių tyrimų žurnalas</i> 10.1 pp.11-28.	https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=782888
Recommended reading				
L. Goodman	1996	<i>Literature and Gender</i>		Routledge
D. Leinarte	2021	<i>Family and the State in Soviet Lithuania</i>		Bloomsbury https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/reader.action?dclid=6639953
E. Rooney (ed.)	2006	<i>Feminist Literary Theory</i>		Oxford University Press