



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code		
Introduction to the Literature of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania			
Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)		
Coordinating: dr Eleonora Terleckienė	Department of Lithuanian Literature Institute for Literary, Cultural and Translation Studies Faculty of Philology		
Study cycle	Type of the course unit		
BA	Compulsory and optional		
Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction	
Classroom and independent study	Spring	English	
Requisites			
Prerequisites: Advanced English language proficiency (C1)	Co-requisites (if relevant):		
Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	133	48	128
Purpose of the course unit			
<p>The course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the historical, cultural, and linguistic aspects of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania through the study of its textual heritage. Through lectures and weekly seminars, students will examine both the changes and continuity of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's religious thought, culture, political and social relations, as well as book, print and literary histories. The focus on primary sources will allow the students to have a first-hand experience of the period, familiarize themselves with a wide range of literary and visual genres of the different periods. Students will gain historical and cultural understanding, develop skills in reading and analysing historical and literary texts, acquire cognitive and social competences of independent study and team work with other students and lecturer, including identifying relevant issues and exchanging of ideas.</p>			
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods	
Students will be acquainted with the historical and cultural context of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.	Interactive lectures and seminars; reading of the assigned texts; analysing and discussing the assigned texts.	Classroom performance, tests for the content of the texts.	
Students will be acquainted with the concept of materiality in the study of texts, with special emphasis on the physical aspects of books and manuscripts; they will explore how the materiality of texts influences their production, circulation, and reception throughout history.	Interactive lectures and seminars; reading of the assigned texts; analysing and discussing the assigned texts; familiarizing with rare books, prints and maps at Vilnius university library.		
Students will be acquainted with visual representations, including sketches, engravings, prints and maps, and their role in shaping the cultural landscape of the time; they will also focus on the role	Interactive lectures and seminars; reading of the assigned texts; analysing and discussing the		

of maps and spatial representation, considering how maps were used for exploration and representation of territories.	assigned texts; familiarizing with rare books, prints and maps at Vilnius university library.	
Students will be acquainted with the variety of writers, their education and social status; they will also focus on readers from diverse backgrounds engaged with literary texts through annotations, marginalia, and other forms of readerly engagement.	Interactive lectures and seminars; reading of the assigned texts; analysing and discussing the assigned texts.	
Students will explore various genres of texts, such as epic poetry, epigram, drama, dedicatory letter and others, to gain a comprehensive view of the diversity.		All assignments.
Students will be able to critically evaluate information, analyse phenomena, distinguish their components and interrelationships; will be able to raise problematic issues, participate in discussions, offer arguments to support their opinion.		
Students will be able to set individual activity goals, pursue them by choosing appropriate strategies, necessary resources, and methods; will be able to make reasonable and constructive decisions independently, plan time and keep track of deadlines.		
Students will be able to develop cultural awareness and sensitivity: will be able to evaluate phenomena and processes of Lithuanian and other cultures critically and objectively.		

Content	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction to the module and the subject. Early modern literature studies today and its future.	2						2	4	
2. Reading in context. Historical overview: dates, personalities, borders, terms.	2		2				4	5	Jevlašauskis [late 16 th –early 17 th c.]
3. Says who? Multilingualism and multiconfessionalism of the region.	2		2				4	5	
4. Self and Otherness in life writing. Constructing one's identity and public persona.	2		2				4	5	
5. Materiality matters: production, circulation and reception of texts as physical objects. Printers and printing-houses in Vilnius. Paratext and bibliographical code.	2			2			4	5	Griffiths (2016); workshop will be held at library, more information during the course.
6. Early modern visual culture. Sketch, engraving, print. Emblem books. Map and spatial relationship.	2		2				4	5	Makowski [1613]
7. Writer as a profession? Author and authorship and readerly engagement. Cultural and intellectual life. Schools and education.	2		4				6	10	Mažvydas [1547]
8. Trials of Orpheus: lyric and epic poetry and its challenges. Epideictic Rhetoric.	2		4				6	10	Hussovianus [1523]

9. Triumph, theatricality, morality: drama, occasional poetry, sermon.	2		4			6	10	Radziwiłłowa [1746]
10. Reinventing the hero and his/her foe: <i>The Seasons</i> by Kristijonas Donelaitis	2		4			6	10	Donelaitis [1765–1775]
11. Exam. Feedback and conclusions.	2					2	16	
Total	22		24	2		48	85	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
6 tests (10 questions each)	60 %	Throughout the term (at the appointed time and dates)	A test (on literary sources – Jevlašauskis, Makowski, Mažvydas, Hussovianus, Radziwiłłowa and Donelaitis) consists of 10 questions: 8 of them are closed-ended, intended to test the knowledge of the text; the other 2 questions are open-ended, to encourage critical thinking). Assessment: one question is one point. The duration of the test is 15-20 minutes.
Final test	30 %	At the end of the course	The final test will cover all literary sources read throughout the semester. It consists of three open-ended questions prepared in advance.
Attendance requirements	10 %		The student must attend at least 30 per cent of the classes since there is a clear and stable relationship between learning (or academic performance) and class attendance. Active and efficient participation in lectures and seminar discussions to build a grasp of basic facts and contexts, adequate understanding of primary texts, relevant and productive engagement in group discussions. Passive participation amounts to 10 %.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Donelaitis, Kristijonas	[1765–1775], 1985	<i>The seasons</i> , translated by Peter Tempest, notes and editing by Lionginas Pažūsis		Vilnius: Vaga
Griffiths, Antony	2016	“The European print 1550–1820”	<i>The Print before Photography. An Introduction to European Printmaking 1550–1820</i> , pp. 15–25.	London: The British Museum
Hussovianus, Nicolaus	[1523], 2021	<i>Song of the Bison. Text and Translation of Nicolaus Hussovianus’s ‘Carmen De Statura, Feritate Ac Venatione Bisontis’</i> , edited and translated by Frederick J. Booth		Amsterdam University Press
Makowski, Tomasz	[1603], 2011	<i>Description of Lithuania in the map of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of 1613</i>	<i>Lithuania on the map</i> , compiled by Aldona Bieliūnienė et al., Latin texts translated by Eugenija Ulčinaitė; translated into English Mantas Adomėnas, Arvydas Gaižauskas, pp. 388–389.	Vilnius: National Museum of Lithuania
Mažvydas, Martynas	[1547], 2022	“Simple Words of Catechism”	<i>Pagans in the Early Modern Baltic.</i>	Amsterdam: ARC Humanities Press

			<i>Sixteenth-Century Ethnographic Accounts of Baltic Paganism</i> , edited and translated by Francis Young, pp. 80–85.	
Teodoras Jevlašauskis	[late 16 th – early 17 th c.], 1968	<i>The Memoirs of Theodore Jeūlašeūski, Assessor of Navahrudak (1546-1604)</i>	in: <i>Journal of Belarusian Studies</i> , Volume 1, Issue 4	[https://brill.com/view/journals/bela/1/4/bela.1.issue-4.xml]
Radziwiłłowa, Franciszka Urszula	[1746], 2015	„Witty Love“	Franciszka Urszula Radziwiłłowa, <i>Selected Drama and Verse</i> , ed. by Patrick John Corness and Barbara Judkowiak; translated by Patrick John Corness, pp. 79–116.	Iter Press and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Recommended reading				
Narbutas, Sigitas	2000	<i>The mysterious island: a review of 13th-18th century literature of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania</i> , translation in English Diana Bartkutė		Vilnius: Lietuvių literatūros ir tautosakos institutas
Frick, David A.	2013	<i>Kith, Kin, and Neighbors. Communities and Confessions in Seventeenth-Century Wilno</i>		Ithaca: Cornell University Press
	2019	<i>Social and Cultural Relations in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Microhistories</i> , edited by Richard Butterwick, Wioletta Pawlikowska		New York, London: Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group
Niedźwiedź, Jakub	2023	<i>Literacy in Medieval and Early Modern Vilnius. Forms of Writing and Rhetorical Spaces in the City</i>		Brepols N.V.
	1996	<i>Polish Baroque and Enlightenment Literature: An Anthology</i> , edited and translated by Michael J. Mikoś		Columbus, Ohio/Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers
	1989	<i>Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry. A Bilingual Anthology</i> , edited and translated by Bogdana Carpenter and John R. Carpenter		Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Slavic Publications
Tereškinas, Artūras	2005	<i>Imperfect communities: identity, discourse and nation in the seventeenth-century Grand Duchy of Lithuania</i>		Vilnius: Lietuvių literatūros ir tautosakos institutas
Sidabraitė, Žavinta	2017	„Kristijonas Donelaitis - a Lithuanian Homer?“	<i>Komunikaty Mazursko-Warmińskie</i> , nr. 4 (298), p. 693-706	
Vaškelienė, Asta	2018	„Literary Theory in the Eighteenth-Century Grand Duchy of Lithuania: From the Classical Tradition to Classicism“	<i>Interlitteraria: Influence and Originality in Literary Creation – Miscelanea</i> , 23/2, p. 295-311	

Werner, Sarah	2019	<i>Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide</i>		NJ: Wiley Blackwell
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Designed 19 October 2023, revised 26 October 2025