



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY „NEOFIT RILSKI“

FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY

2700 Blagoevgrad, 66 Ivan Mihaylov str.; 073 / 88 55 08; info@swu.bg; www.swu.bg

INFORMATION PACKAGE OF DOCTORAL PROGRAM

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: HUMANITIES

PROFESSIONAL FIELD: 2.1. PHILOLOGY

**DOCTORAL PROGRAM: HISTORY OF BULGARIAN
LITERATURE**

EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: DOCTOR

LEVEL OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATION: 8

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: RESEARCHER

DURATION OF STUDY: 3 /three / or 4 /four / YEARS:

**FORM OF STUDY: FULL-TIME / SELF-STUDY
PART-TIME**

LANGUAGE OF STUDY BULGARIAN, ENGLISH

Blagoevgrad, 2025

1. GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The training of doctoral students in the PhD program “History of Bulgarian Literature” is carried out at the Department of Literature and Ethnology, Faculty of Philology, South-West University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad. The doctoral program has been established to meet the needs of higher education institutions, research bodies, and state institutions for specialists primarily in the field of Bulgarian literary history. It expands the general and specialized preparation acquired in the Master’s degree. The doctoral students’ training for research work runs in parallel with their preparation for teaching. The aim is for the doctoral student to acquire not only specialized knowledge, but also practical skills for conducting seminars and applying knowledge in real teaching settings.

The duration of study is three years in full-time and independent study forms, and four years in part-time form. The program concludes with the defense of a doctoral dissertation. Upon successful defense, candidates are awarded the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the PhD program “History of Bulgarian Literature”.

The learning outcomes are defined in accordance with the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area and the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

2.1. Training of highly qualified scholars, researchers, and lecturers with the competences and skills necessary to carry out research activities in the field of Bulgarian literary history.

2.2. Development of skills for studying individual boundaries and periods within it: contexts of the literary work, genre horizons, textological issues, textual boundaries, etc.

2.3. Building scholarly competence in the main periods of the processual existence of Bulgarian literary history.

2.4. Formation of academic and applied knowledge and skills for independent teaching and research activity, for teamwork, and for applying innovative and technological achievements in the theory and practice of Bulgarian literary studies.

2.5. Enrichment of methodological knowledge, skills, and competences for planning and carrying out research, as well as for analyzing, presenting, and disseminating the obtained results within the scholarly community of literary studies.

3. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

In the course of the educational and research training within the PhD program “History of Bulgarian Literature”, the doctoral student develops conceptual thinking on methodological and research issues in the field of Bulgarian literary theory. The program provides opportunities for mastering the methodology, methods, tools, and techniques of conducting scholarly research in the following exemplary areas:

- Literature, gender, and social roles
- Sociocultural contexts of literary studies
- Literary criticism – ideas, ideologies, institutions
- Literature and technologies
- The text – boundaries and structures
- Symbolism – signs, theories, influences
- The artistic text – theoretical aspects
- Methods and methodologies of literary analysis

During their training, the doctoral student acquires skills and professional competences for planning, organizing, and successfully carrying out independent research activities. The educational and research process fosters attitudes and abilities for teaching, project, and expert work in the field of literary studies. It also cultivates dispositions and skills for continuous self-education and self-improvement in the course of the doctoral students’ scholarly and professional development.

4. ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND COMPETENCIES ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

4.1. Knowledge (theoretical and/or factual):

- Possesses and applies specialized and systematized knowledge for conducting critical analysis and for synthesizing new ideas in the field of literary studies; is proficient in the methods of scholarly research in the domain of literary knowledge.

- A graduate of the doctoral program possesses the essential resources for independent scholarly and teaching activity – is able to define their research object, masters the techniques of working with and locating bibliographical sources, can establish their own priorities within the science of literature, and is trained to work in a team.

4.2. Skills (cognitive and/or practical):

- Independent scholarly thinking, development of one's own academic language and style.
- Knowledge and application of the scholarly methods of literary analysis, implemented in the studied fields and issues.
- Synthesis, modeling, construction, and testing of hypotheses in the field of literary history.
- Ability to operate with literary-historical facts and interpret them within an appropriate context.
- Skills for conducting academic communication through participation in scholarly discussions and presenting research results to diverse audiences.
- Development and modification of research tools and methodologies.
- Capacity to establish professional contacts with members of the scholarly community from different countries.
- Ability to transmit knowledge and competences to colleagues and students.

4.3. Autonomy and responsibility:

The doctoral student in the PhD program "History of Bulgarian Literature" is expected to possess personal dispositions and an aspiration for self-realization, revealing their own potential in the role of researcher and lecturer. Of particular importance are also the skills, attitudes, and relations connected with:

- Developing adequate self-assessment, profound interests, and motivation for professional research activity.
- Cultivating skills and motivation for professional communication and adaptability.

4.4. Learning competence:

During the course of training, the doctoral student acquires:

- Skills for working with scholarly literature.
- Presentation skills (including presenting key aspects of the concept of their doctoral thesis).
- The ability to prepare and defend their own perspective on the methodology of their research; competences to participate in white-border seminars (with other doctoral students or with the research unit) – discussing and defending interim results of the doctoral thesis, as well as theses on issues within the scholarly field, etc.
- The ability to engage in academic-level discussion when preparing and defending a scholarly paper (before a committee, the teaching unit, etc.) for a symposium, conference, or congress.
- Participation with research papers in academic forums.
- Independent preparation and publication of articles in scholarly volumes and journals.
- Delivering a public lecture on the results of their research (before the research unit, student audience, teachers, etc.).

- Participation in the development of models for individual or collective research projects, and involvement in university competitions for funding of research projects.

4.5. Communicative and social competencies:

The doctoral student in the PhD program “History of Bulgarian Literature”:

- Displays qualities and transferable skills requiring a high degree of personal responsibility and independent initiative in complex and unpredictable circumstances, as well as in professional or equivalent environments.
- Demonstrates general abilities to conceptualize, design, and implement projects aimed at generating new knowledge, applying or understanding cutting-edge achievements, as well as adapting project design to unforeseen circumstances.
- Communicates effectively in some of the most widely used European languages.

4.6. Professional competencies:

- Understands in detail the techniques applied in scholarly research and complex academic studies.
- Makes informed judgments on complex issues in the relevant field, often in the absence of complete data; presents ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to both specialists and non-specialists.
- Possesses the ability to pursue research in the field of literature and literary history at increasingly advanced levels, contributing to the development of new techniques, ideas, or approaches.

5. PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION AREAS

A graduate who has obtained the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the PhD program “History of Bulgarian Literature” has the opportunity to pursue a career in the following fields:

- Academic teaching – lecturer in the respective literature at a higher education institution.
- Research – scholar engaged in independent research activity.
- Secondary education – teacher in schools.
- Publishing and cultural institutions – specialist or consultant.
- Project activities – specialist with skills in developing and implementing projects.

CONTENTS OF THE CURRICULUM

№	ACTIVITITES	Work modes			Forms of assessment
		ECTS CREDITS	TOTAL WORKLOAD - hours	lectures, seminars, lab seminars, self-study, consultations, participation in academic forums, other	Exam, ongoing assessment, discussion, certificate, report, minutes of meeting, lecturer's signature, other
I. STUDY					
	1.Compulsory discipline 1: (related to the field of the thesis research – selected from Module-A)	7.0	210	30 hrs lectures (30 contact hrs / 180 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, discussion, presentation
	2.Compulsory discipline 2: (related to the field of the thesis research – selected from Module-A)	7.0	210	30 hrs lectures (30 contact hrs /180 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, discussion, presentation
	3.Project drafting and management	5.0	150	30 hrs lectures (30 contact hrs / 120 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, test, discussion, presentation
	4.English	5.0	150	hrs seminars (60 contact hrs / 90 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, test, discussion, presentation
	5.Elective discipline 1 (selected from Module-B)	6.0	180	30 hrs lectures (30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, discussion, presentation
TOTAL : 30.0		900			
II. RESEARCH					
	1.Reviewing the PhD thesis related literature	5.0	150	Self-study, consultations	I-VI semester report, evidence of performed work

2. Fundamental data collection for the PhD thesis	5.0	150	Self-study, consultations	II-III semester report, evidence of performed work
3. Structuring the PhD thesis – content, appendices, formatting the initially collected data.	10.0	300	Self-study, consultations	III semester report, evidence of performed work
4. Building a coherent methodological toolkit for the PhD thesis	5.0	150	Self-study, consultations	IV semester, discussion, evidence of performed work
5. Participation in an academic forum (seminar, workshop, conference) as a listener or as a presenter of a short paper	15.0	450	Academic Forum Participation	II-IV semester, report, certificate
6. Participation in an academic forum (seminar, workshop, conference) with a full paper presentation	15.0	450	Academic Forum Participation	III-VI semester, report, certificate
7. Preparing an article/study for publication	20.0	600	Self-study, consultations	IV-VI semester discussion, evidence of performed work
8. Article/study publication in Bulgaria	20.0	600	Publication	IV-VI semester, certificate
9. Article/study publication abroad	25.0	750	Publication	IV-VI semester, certificate
10. Article publication in a refereed journal	30.0	900	Publication	V-VI semester, certificate
11. Writing, formatting and presenting completed parts of the PhD thesis	15.0	450	Self-study, consultations	V-VI semester report, evidence of performed work
12. Preparation of the PhD thesis for presentation to the Supervising Department	15.0	450	Self-study, consultations	VI semester report, discussion, evidence of performed work

13.	Discussion on the PhD thesis at a meeting of the Supervising Department	15.0	450	Evidence of performed work	VI semester minutes of meeting
14.	Final revision and completion of the PhD thesis following the Supervising Department discussion meeting.	15.0	450	Self-study, consultations	VI semester report, discussion, evidence of performed work
Defense of the PhD thesis					
max ОБЩО : 140			max 4200		
III. TEACHING					
1.	Seminar teaching	6.0	180	Minimum 30 hrs of seminars + 150 hrs of self-study	IV-V semester report, Head of Department's signature
2.	Participation in exam administration and grading	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	III-VI semester report, Academic discipline leader's signature
3.	Designing tests for written examination	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	III-VI semester report, Academic discipline leader's signature
4.	Student papers grading	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	III-VI semester report, Academic discipline leader's signature
5.	Student consulting	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	III-VI semester report, Head of Department's signature
max TOTAL : 8.0			max 240		
IV. OTHER					
1.	Participation – as a listener or respondent – in the ongoing seminar of the Department providing	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	I-VI semester report, Seminar leader's signature

the PhD thesis supervision.					
2. Participation in the organising and holding of academic forums at the Faculty of Philology	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study		I-VI semester report, Dean's signature
3. Work on curriculum, syllabus and other documents	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study		I-VI semester report, Head of Department's signature
4. State exams invigilation at the Faculty of Philology	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study		I-VI semester report, Head of Department's signature
5. Participation in the Department meetings of the supervision providing Department.	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study		I-VI semester report, Head of Department's signature
TOTAL: 2.0		60			
TOTAL (for the whole period of instruction):		180	5400		

V. MODULE-A – COMPULSORY DISCIPLINES

1. Literature, gender, and social roles	7.0	210	(30 contact hrs / 180 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, presentation
2. Sociocultural context of literary research	7.0	210	(30 contact hrs / 180 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester paper, discussion, presentation

V. MODULE-B – ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES

1. Literary criticism – ideas, ideologies, institutions	7.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester paper, discussion, presentation
2 Literature and technologies	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, test, paper, discussion, presentation, other

3. The text – boundaries and structures	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, test, paper, discussion, presentation, other
4 The literary text – theoretical aspects	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I -III semester exam, test, paper, discussion, presentation, other
5. Symbolism – signs, theories, and impact	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I -III semester exam, test, paper, discussion, presentation, other
6. Methods and methodology of the literary analysis	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, test, paper, discussion, presentation, other
7. Metamorphoses of the literary work	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester paper, discussion, presentation

COMPULSORY DISCIPLINES

LITERATURE, GENDER, AND SOCIAL ROLES

ECTS Credits: 7

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Semester: I – III

Weekly workload: 2l+0s+12ind.

Course status: elective

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Albena Vacheva, Department of Literature and Ethnology

Phone: +359 73 588 528

Email: vacheva@swu.bg

Course outline: The course aims to present the main processes in Bulgarian literature, by exploring in detail some of the social and aesthetic mechanisms that influence the formation of the literary field. This allows for the program to discuss questions of literary history and theory from a different angle and in a more conceptual manner, examining specific issues such as reception, the role of mass media in the age of modernity, and the influence of various women's associations and publications. A central focus of the lecture course is the question of the aesthetic and ideological characteristics of women's writing within the overall development of Bulgarian literature during the 20th century. Attention is given to the issue of women's overall presence in the Bulgarian cultural space, their place in the history and canon of Bulgarian literature, as well as the political changes and ideological transformations within the literary field.

Course content: Gender and sex – literary and cultural dimensions. Women and literary life at the beginning of the 20th century. Canon, women, history. Generations and directions in Bulgarian women's literature: fiction. Generations and directions in Bulgarian women's literature: poetry. Women's literature in the era of socialism. Feminism and literature – women's writing after 1990.

Teaching and assessment: The training consists of lectures and independent work of the doctoral students. Out-of-class activities include consultations with the lecturer, written assignments and topic development (course papers), among others. Assessment of the acquired knowledge in the course is carried out through continuous evaluation, based on the overall performance during the course.

SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXTS OF LITERARY RESEARCH

ECTS credits: 7

Form of assessment: exam

Semester: I–III

Weekly workload: 2l + 12 ind.

Course status: compulsory

Methodological guidance:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Azmanova-Rudarska, Department of Literature and Ethnology

Phone: +359 73 588 528,

Email: elena_azmanova@swu.bg

Course annotation: The discipline aims to introduce doctoral students to the thematic and problem-focused cores of the period relevant to their research, while uncovering the interrelations between literary creativity and cultural-historical processes. In addition to historical events, particular importance is given to the social dimensions of the community in which the author is formed and operates. Literary works emerge as a direct reflection of the family environment, circles of friends, creative communities, and literary rivals, while at the same time mirroring broader social and cultural contexts. In this way, a deeper layer of the literary work is revealed, shedding light on the causes of literary polemics and dialogues. The course stimulates critical thinking and analytical skills in doctoral students, guiding them toward an interdisciplinary approach and a deeper understanding of processes in literary history.

Course content: Historical context and literary dynamics – examining the major historical events and their impact on literary processes and authorial presence. Social life of the community – analyzing the role of family, friendships, and social ties in shaping the author's literary image. Creative circles and societies – presenting literary and cultural communities that set directions of aesthetic and ideological development. Literary opponents and polemics – discussing clashes of ideas, critical texts, and oppositions that accompany literary life. Dialogism as method – emphasizing dialogue between authors, critics, and audiences, as well as intertextual relations. Genre transformations – tracing the dynamics of literary genres under social and cultural influences. Criticism and reception – analyzing critical practices and their role in the acceptance or rejection of particular authors and movements. Cultural models and identity – exploring national and international influences that shape the literary consciousness of the era. Literature and public life – studying the interactions between literary works and societal processes, including political and cultural debates. Polemics as a driving force – outlining the role of conflict and opposition in creating new aesthetic horizons and literary schools.

Teaching and assessment methods: The course consists of lectures and independent doctoral research. Independent activities include consultations with the lecturer, preparation of written assignments and course papers, bibliographic research (collection and processing of materials), and more. The assessment of acquired knowledge is carried out through continuous assessment and a final exam.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 5

Form of assessment: exam

Semester: I-III

Weekly workload: 2l+0s+8sp

Course status: Compulsory

Methodological management:

Finance and Accountability department

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Todorov, PhD

Finance and Accountability department

E-mail: ivanK.todorov@swu.bg

Course outline: The aim of the course Project Preparation and Management is to train highly qualified professionals in the preparation and management of projects at both national and trans-European levels by providing knowledge and skills related to various types of projects and programs.

Course topics: National and international instruments for supporting projects and programs with different scopes and purposes;
The nature and key characteristics of project management and project team management;
Strategic and tactical decision-making in the context of project management;
Project development and project design in various fields.

Course organization and assessment: Achievement of the course objectives is assessed through two tests: an entry (diagnostic) test and a final (summative) test.

ENGLISH

ECTS кредити: 5

Form of assessment: exam

Semester: I-III

Weekly workload: 4s + 6sp

Course status: compulsory

Methodological management:

German and Roman studies

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Sakareva, PhD

German and Roman studies

E-mail: vanyasakareva@swu.bg

Course outline: The course aims to provide practical training in English language for doctoral students. The focus is on acquiring fundamental knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at lower proficiency levels, and on enhancing and expanding language skills at higher levels of proficiency.

Course topics: Special emphasis is placed on the development of speaking and listening skills, as well as on mastering the basic principles of academic writing in English. Students also develop skills for preparing presentations, CVs, abstracts, and academic articles in English. The English course for doctoral students includes the following core modules: practical grammar, vocabulary, written exercises, reading and listening comprehension, and conversation. Depending on the specific needs of learners from different faculties and specializations, the course also incorporates domain-specific vocabulary and exercises in both specialized and general translation.

Teaching and assessment: The course is typically held annually during the first month after the end of the summer semester. Its duration may vary depending on the formation of groups according to language proficiency levels.

Each student's level is determined by an entry placement test, based on which participants are grouped into beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels, corresponding to A1, A2–B1, and B2–C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The course follows an integrative approach, where the acquisition of new knowledge and skills is based on the development of the four main language competencies: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES

LITERARY CRITICISM – IDEAS, IDEOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS

ECTS Credits: 6

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Semester: I – III

Weekly workload: 2l+0s+10ind.

Course status: elective

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Albena Vacheva, Department of Literature and Ethnology

Phone: +359 73 588 528

Email: vacheva@swu.bg

Course outline: The course aims to implement an educational project focused on the emergence, development, and key issues of Bulgarian literary theory and criticism. This will enable doctoral students to gain a comprehensive professional perspective on the evolution of theoretical and critical literary thought throughout the 20th century. Familiarizing students with the dynamics of ongoing debates in operative criticism, the institutionalization of the literary field, and the mechanisms through which certain artistic texts are established as part of the classical heritage is also among the primary goals of the course. The main objective of this lecture course is to help doctoral students navigate the immediate reception of literary texts and understand the various critical interpretations in their complex unity and discursive dynamics.

Course content: Literature and period, Structuring of publicity, Fiction of the 1990s – tradition and innovation, Narrative strategies of the (post)modern narrative, Verbalizing memory. (Auto)biographical writing, Poetic projects of the 1990s, Radicalization of poetic discourse, Drama of the 1990s.

Teaching and assessment: The training consists of lectures and independent student work. Out-of-class activities include consultations with the lecturer, written assignments and topic development (course papers), among others. Assessment of the acquired knowledge in the course is carried out through continuous evaluation, based on the overall performance during the course.

LITERATURE AND TECHNOLOGIES

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment form: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

Weekly workload: 2l+0+10 ind

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Stiliyan Stoyanov, Department of Literature and Ethnology,

Phone: 073/ 588 528;

E-mail: stilyan@swu.bg

Course outline: The main goal The aim of the discipline is to build an idea of the relationship between the theme, character system, plots and features of the style of the literary work and technological development. In this sense, technologies are that extraneous point (according to M. Bakhtin) that makes it possible to trace essential phenomena, processes and transformations in the literary work.

Course content: The technological revolution from the Renaissance to the present day. Printing and democracy. Seeing the invisible – photography, X-rays, mind reading. Human connectivity – telegraph, telephone, radio, television, Internet. Horror literature in the context of technology. The telegraph and telegraphic style. God and technology. Photography as a catalyst for realistic trends in literature. The fashion for automatons and the literature of Romanticism. New heroes in literature. Technologies – utopias and dystopias.

Teaching and assessment: The training is carried out in the form of lectures and extracurricular activities. The assessment of knowledge in the discipline is carried out through ongoing control. The ongoing control is formed on the basis of the classroom (attendance and participation in classes) and extracurricular activities (preparation of presentations, essays) and is assessed on a scale from 2 to 6. The final grade is formed on the basis of the grades from the ongoing control and is transformed into a letter designation (A, B, C, D, E) on the ECTS scale. All written work is stored and subject to control in accordance with the Regulations for the educational activities of the university.

THE TEXT – BOUNDARIES AND STRUCTURES

ECTS credits: 6

Weekly workload: 21+0+10 ind

Assessment form: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Roman Hadjikosev,

Department of Literature and Ethnology,

Phone: 073/ 588 528;

Email: r.hadjikosev@swu.bg

Course outline: The main goal The aim of the course is to build an idea of the essence and specificity of the literary text. The subject of the course is the different structural levels of the text. The main theoretical concepts commenting on the literary text are examined. Particular attention is paid to the way in which general cultural processes (movements and ideologies), literary trends (genres, aesthetics), the specific features of individual national literatures shape the literary text. The border zones of the text, the meaning and functions of the paratext, the connections of the literary text with extra-literary reality, etc. are commented on. At the end of the course, doctoral students are expected to have a thorough understanding of the dynamics in the development of the literary text and its determination by certain

ideological doctrines, receptive attitudes, literary fashion, manner and style of writing, and the biography of the writer.

Course content: Specificity of the literary text. Language and style. The graphic design of the text in the context of the generic-specific division of literature. Meaning and functions of the paratext. The boundary zones of the text: beginning, end. Rhyme in the context of the boundaries of the verse. Said and unsaid in the literary text. The literary text as a unity of plot and comment fragments.

Teaching and assessment: The training is carried out in the form of lectures and extracurricular activities. The assessment of knowledge in the discipline is carried out through ongoing control. The ongoing control is formed on the basis of the classroom (attendance and participation in classes) and extracurricular activities (preparation of presentations, essays) and is assessed on a scale from 2 to 6. The final grade is formed on the basis of the grades from the ongoing control and is transformed into a letter designation (A, B, C, D, E) on the ECTS scale. All written work is stored and subject to control in accordance with the Regulations for the educational activities of the university.

THE TEXT – THEORETICAL ASPECTS

ECTS credits: 7

Weekly workload: 21 + 0 + 12ind

Assessment form: ongoing control and exam

Course status: compulsory

Semester: I – III

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Stiliyan Stoyanov, Department of Literature and Ethnology,

Phone: 073/ 588 528;

Email: stilyan@swu.bg

Course outline: The main goal of the discipline is to build an idea of the essence and specificity of the literary text. The subject of the discipline is the various aspects of the literary text – linguistic, structural, ideological, semiotic, etc. The main theoretical concepts commenting on the literary text are examined. Particular attention is paid to the way in which general cultural processes (movements and ideologies), literary trends (genres, aesthetics), the specific features of individual national literatures shape the literary text. At the end of the course, doctoral students are expected to have a thorough understanding of the dynamics in the development of the literary text and its determination by certain ideological doctrines, receptive attitudes, literary fashion, manner and style of writing, and the biography of the writer.

Course content: Specificity of the literary text. Language and style. Tropes and figures. Structure and composition – formal, substantive and pragmatic aspects. The literary text from a receptive point of view. The implicit reader. Literary fashion. The literary text in the context of the generic-species division of literature. Text and meaning. Sign and interpretation. Said and unsaid in the literary text. Functions of the riddle. The literary text in the contexts of popular and mass literature.

Teaching and assessment: The training is carried out in the form of lectures and extracurricular activities. The assessment of knowledge in the discipline is carried out through current control and a

semester exam. Current control is formed on the basis of classroom (attendance and participation in classes) and extracurricular activities (preparation of presentations, essays) and is assessed on a scale from 2 to 6. The semester exam is conducted in written form (development of a topic from the questionnaire, defense of an essay, presentation). The final grade is formed on the basis of the grades from the current control and the semester exam in a ratio of 65% : 35% and is transformed into a letter designation (A, B, C, D, E) on the ECTS scale. All written work is stored and subject to control according to the Regulations for the educational activities of the university.

SYMBOLISM – SIGNS, THEORIES, INFLUENCES

ECTS Credits: 6

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Semester: I – III

Weekly workload: 2l+0s+10ind.

Course status: elective

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Azmanova-Rudarska, Department of Literature and Ethnology

Phone: +359 73 588 528

Email: elena_azmanova@swu.bg

Course outline: The course introduces doctoral students to the issues of European and Bulgarian Symbolism, explored as a cultural-historical phenomenon, an aesthetic movement, and a literary practice. Emphasis is placed on the central ideas and theoretical models of Symbolism, on the system of signs and symbols through which the artistic world is constructed, as well as on its dialogue with the philosophical, religious, and mystical doctrines of the period. The course traces the transformations of the Symbolist discourse in European literature and its manifestations in Bulgarian poetry and criticism, highlighting key influences and models of reception. The discipline seeks not only to provide knowledge of the stylistic specificity and thematic cores of Symbolism, but also to develop students' skills for analytical reading, interpretation, and comparative analysis of texts within a broad interdisciplinary framework.

Course content: Historical and cultural context of Symbolism – the emergence and establishment of Symbolism in Europe and its connections with cultural and philosophical currents of the period. Theoretical foundations of Symbolism – major manifestos, aesthetic programs, and the poetics of Paul Verlaine, Stéphane Mallarmé, and Charles Baudelaire. Systems of signs and symbols – an exploration of artistic signs, metaphors, and symbols as carriers of multiple layers of meaning. Philosophical and religious influences – the impact of mysticism, Neoplatonism, Christian symbolism, and Eastern teachings on Symbolist discourse. Symbolism and musicality – the interaction between poetry and music; rhythm, sound, and melody as structuring elements of the Symbolist text. European literary models – the development of Symbolism in France, Russia, Germany, and its different national manifestations. Bulgarian Symbolism: origins and characteristics – the rise of Symbolism in Bulgaria, its main representatives, and thematic emphases. Criticism and reception of Symbolism – the acceptance and rejection of Symbolist aesthetics in the cultural debates of the era. Symbolism and Modernism – interactions and distinctions between Symbolism and other modernist movements in European and Bulgarian contexts. Legacy and influences – the impact of Symbolist poetics on later literary movements and contemporary interpretations of Symbolism.

Teaching and assessment: The course consists of lectures and independent student work. Independent activities include consultations with the lecturer, preparation of written assignments and course papers, bibliographic research (collection and processing of materials), and more. The acquired knowledge is assessed through continuous evaluation and an oral examination.

METHODS AND METHODOLOGIES OF LITERARY ANALYSIS

ECTS Credits: 6

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Semester: I – III

Weekly workload: 2l+0s+10ind.

Course status: elective

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Azmanova-Rudarska, Department of Literature and Ethnology

Phone: +359 73 588 528

Email: elena_azmanova@swu.bg

Course outline: The course aims to acquaint doctoral students with the principal methods and methodological approaches in literary analysis, both in their classical form and in contemporary interpretations. Traditional critical practices—biographism, formalism, structuralism—are studied alongside modern theoretical models such as post-structuralism, reception theory, cultural and interdisciplinary approaches. Special emphasis is placed on comparing the various methodological perspectives and their application in the analysis of specific literary texts. The goal is for doctoral students to develop skills for the critical selection of methods, to recognize their advantages and limitations, and to construct their own research strategies. The discipline develops the ability for analytical thinking, interpretation, and argumentation, essential for in-depth and academically valid research of literary processes.

Course content: The course begins with an introduction to literary analysis, outlining the main aims, tasks, and scope of literary criticism and methodology. Attention then turns to the biographical and historical-literary method, which examines the connections between author, historical context, and text. Formalism and structuralism are given special attention, focusing on form, structure, and language. Within semiotic and narratological approaches, literature is studied as a system of signs, with analysis directed at narrative structures.

The psychoanalytic method introduces the ideas of Freud, Jung, and Lacan and their application in the interpretation of images, motifs, and plots. Marxist and ideological readings address literature as a reflection of social and class relations and as a field of cultural critique. Reception theory highlights the role of the reader and reading communities in meaning-making. Post-structuralism and deconstruction, in turn, challenge traditional meanings and propose multiple possible readings of the text.

The course also includes feminist and cultural approaches, which view literature as a space of identities, power relations, and cultural models. It concludes with interdisciplinary methods—anthropological, sociological, and media approaches—that demonstrate how the literary text functions within broad cultural, social, and communicative contexts.

Teaching and assessment: The course consists of lectures and independent student work. Independent activities include consultations with the lecturer, preparation of written assignments and course papers,

bibliographic research (collection and processing of materials), and more. Assessment of acquired knowledge is carried out through continuous assessment and an oral examination.

METAMORPHOSES OF THE LITERARY WORK

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment form: continuous assessment

Semester: I-III

Weekly workload: 21 + 0 + 12 ind

Course status: elective

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Anastasova, Department of German and Romance Studies,

Phone: +359 73 588 528,

Email: m.anastasova@swu.bg

Course outline: The course is interdisciplinary and aims to introduce students to the adaptation of a literary work for other media – cinema, theatre, television, etc. The idea is to trace the metamorphoses of the literary text when it goes beyond its narrative field. The main emphasis is on distinguishing analytical approaches to the same work when it is “translated” into a different media context. For this purpose, some terms from film, theatre and television art are introduced.

Course content: The course is theoretical in nature and aims to familiarize students with the basic theories of the adaptation of a literary work. The theoretical tools from the field of different media are introduced and both contemporary and considered classic film adaptations of literary works are examined. Visual materials and critical texts are used. A comparison is made between different adaptations of the same literary work in order to trace its transformations in different media contexts.

Teaching and assessment: The training consists of classroom classes, which include lectures, discussions and film readings, and extracurricular activities, which include: consultations with the teacher, familiarization with the discussed film and literary works, review of critical materials, etc. The assessment of the acquired knowledge in the course is carried out through a final exam, essay or presentation.