



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: LITERATURE OF THE PEOPLES OF
EUROPE, AMERICA, AFRICA, ASIA,
AND AUSTRALIA**

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 preparation of PhD students in the Doctoral Program “Literature of the Peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Australia” is carried out in the Department of Literature and Ethnology at the Faculty of Philology of South-West University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad. The program was created to meet the needs of higher education institutions, scientific and state institutions for specialists mainly in the field of Western European literary history. It expands the basic and specialized knowledge acquired in the Master’s degree. Training for research work goes hand in hand with preparation for teaching. The goal is that doctoral students acquire not only specialized knowledge but also practical skills for conducting seminars and applied academic activities. The duration of study is three years for full-time or individual study and four years for part-time study. The training ends with the defense of a doctoral dissertation. Those who successfully defend are awarded the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the program “Literature of the Peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.”

The learning outcomes are determined 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. Preparation of highly qualified scholars, researchers, and lecturers with the competence to conduct scientific research in the field of European and American literary history.

2.2. Development of skills to study individual boundaries and periods within it: ancient horizons, medieval issues, Renaissance “explosions” of themes, etc.

2.3. Building scholarly competence in the main periods of European literary history.

2.4. Formation of theoretical and applied knowledge and skills for independent teaching and research activities, teamwork, and application of innovations and technological achievements in the study of world literature.

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

3. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

Within the doctoral program, the PhD student develops conceptual thinking in methodology and research in world literary theory. They acquire the methodology, methods, tools, and techniques for conducting research in the following exemplary areas:

- ❖ Antiquity and Classicism
- ❖ Gothic “literary” genres
- ❖ Literature and History – problems of artistic representation
- ❖ Literary stylistic dynamics of the 18th and 19th centuries
- ❖ The epistolary novel
- ❖ The historical novel
- ❖ The women’s canon – beginnings and historical horizons
- ❖ The language of power and literature

During training, PhD students develop skills and professional competence for planning, organizing, and conducting independent research. They also acquire attitudes and skills for teaching, project work, and expert activity in literary studies. Emphasis is placed on continuous self-education and professional development.

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

4.1. Knowledge (theoretical and/or factual):

- ❖ Specialized and systematic knowledge for critical analysis and synthesis of new ideas in literary studies.

- ❖ Mastery of research methods in literary knowledge.

- ❖ Graduates can identify their own research object, work with and search for bibliographies, set research priorities, and work in teams.

4.2. Skills (cognitive and/or practical):

- ❖ Independent scholarly thinking and development of individual academic style.

- ❖ Application of literary analysis methods to specific areas and problems.

- ❖ Hypothesis-building, synthesis, and modeling in literary theory.

- ❖ Interpretation of literary-historical facts in appropriate contexts.

- ❖ Conducting scholarly communication in academic discussions, presenting research results to varied audiences.

- ❖ Developing and adapting research tools.

- ❖ Establishing professional contacts internationally.

- ❖ Transferring knowledge and skills to colleagues and students.

4.3. Autonomy and responsibility:

PhD students are expected to demonstrate self-realization, potential as researchers and lecturers, and abilities in:

- ❖ Self-assessment, motivation, and professional research development.

- ❖ Professional communication and adaptability.

4.4. Learning competence:

During training, PhD students acquire:

- ❖ Skills for working with scholarly literature.

- ❖ Presentation skills (including defense of their dissertation concept).

- ❖ Ability to justify their research methodology and results in seminars and academic discussions.

- ❖ Experience presenting at symposia, conferences, and congresses.

- ❖ Ability to publish independently in academic journals.

- ❖ Public lecturing skills.

- ❖ Participation in individual and collective research projects, including applying for university-funded projects.

4.5. Communicative and social competencies:

PhD students:

- ❖ Show responsibility and initiative in unpredictable academic or professional contexts.

- ❖ Demonstrate capacity to design and implement research projects that generate new knowledge and adapt to unforeseen conditions.

- ❖ Communicate fluently in major European languages.

4.6. Professional competencies:

- ❖ Detailed understanding of techniques for advanced academic research.

- ❖ Ability to make informed judgments on complex issues, often with incomplete data, and to present results clearly to both specialists and non-specialists.

- ❖ Capacity to advance research in literature and literary theory at higher levels, contributing to new methods, ideas, and approaches.

5. PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION AREAS

- Holders of a PhD degree in the program “Literature of the Peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia, and Australia” can work in the following fields:

- Academic teaching – lecturer in literature at higher education institutions.

- Research – independent scholarly researcher.

- Secondary education – literature teacher.

- Publishing and cultural institutions – consultant or expert.

- Project work – specialist with skills in project management.

CONTENTS OF THE CURRICULUM

№	ACTIVITITES	ECTS CREDITS	TOTAL WORKLOAD - hours	Work modes	Forms of assessment
				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	15.0	450	Self-study, consultations	VI semester report,	

	the Supervising Department				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		max		
TOTAL :8.0		240		
OTHER				
Participation – as a listener or respondent – in the ongoing seminar of the Department providing the PhD thesis supervision.	1.0	30	5 contact hrs, 25 hrs of self-study	I-VI semester report, Seminar leader’s signature
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
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
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
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. Western European literature – between the norm and the manifesto	7.0	210	(30 contact hrs / 180 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester exam, paper, presentation
2. Metamorphoses of the literary work	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	6.0	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. Literature, gender, and social roles	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester paper, discussion, presentation
8. Western European literature – interpretations and dialogues	6.0	180	(30 contact hrs / 150 hrs of self-study)	I-III semester paper, discussion, presentation

COMPULSORY DISCIPLINES

WESTERN EUROPEAN LITERATURE – BETWEEN THE NORM AND THE MANIFESTO

ECTS credits: 7

Form of assessment: exam

Semester: I – III

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

Course status: compulsory

Methodological guidance:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boyka Ilieva, Department of Literature and Ethnology,

Phone: 073/ 588 528;

E-mail: boyka.ilieva@swu.bg

Course outline: The primary objective of the course is to develop an understanding of the cultural processes and trends that shape the direction of European literary development. The focus of the course is the literature of Western Europe from the Middle Ages to the present day. It covers the main epochs and movements through which it has evolved. Special attention is given to broader cultural processes (movements and ideologies), literary trends (genre, aesthetic), and the specific characteristics of individual national literatures. Representative authors and works from each epoch are studied. By the end of the course, doctoral candidates are expected to be familiar with the developmental literary processes across different periods; to acquire skills for scholarly interpretation and comparison of literary and cultural phenomena.

Course content: Western European Middle Ages. Genre system of medieval literature. Pre-Renaissance. Characteristics. Renaissance. Philosophy and aesthetics. Genre system of Renaissance literature. National particularities. Classicism. Aesthetics and normativity. Enlightenment. Ideology and aesthetic principles. Genre system. Enlightenment novel. National distinctiveness. Western European Romanticism. Aesthetic features, genres. National specifics and representatives. The European novel of the 19th century. Tendencies, features of artistic representation. Literary trends in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Naturalism. Aestheticism. Symbolism. Modern drama. The novel between the two World Wars. Aesthetic characteristics. Ideas and motifs. Existentialism. Philosophical foundation. Themes and issues. Theatre of the Absurd. Development of the European novel after World War II. Intellectual novel.

Teaching and assessment: The instruction is delivered through lectures and independent study. Assessment of knowledge in the course is conducted through continuous assessment and a semester exam. Continuous assessment is based on continuous evaluation of both in-class activities (attendance and participation) and out-of-class work (preparation of presentations and term papers) on a scale from 2 to 6 independent work (preparation of presentations, term papers) and is graded on a scale from 2 to 6. The semester exam is written (developing a topic from the questionnaire, defending a research paper or presentation). The final grade is calculated based on the continuous assessment and semester exam in a 65% : 35% ratio and converted to ECTS letter grades (A, B, C, D, E). All written assignments are stored and subject to monitoring in accordance with the university's regulations on educational activities.

METAMORPHOSES OF THE LITERARY WORK

ECTS credits: 7

Form of assessment: paper, discussion, presentation

Semester: I – III

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

Course status: compulsory

Methodological management:

Department of Germanic and Romance Studies

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Maria Anastasova PhD,

Department of Germanic and Romance Studies

Phone: +359 73 588 528

E-mail: m.anastasova@swu.bg

Course outline: The course is interdisciplinary and is designed to introduce students to the art of the adaptation of literary works for other media – such as film, theatre, television, etc. The aim is to trace the metamorphoses of the literary text as it transcends its original narrative field. The main focus is on distinguishing between the different analytical approaches to the same work when it is “transferred” into another medium. Students are introduced to key terminology from the fields of film studies, theatre, and television arts.

Course content: The course is theoretical and its main aim is to present the basic fiction adaptation theories. It introduces the theoretical toolkit from the field of various media and explores both contemporary and classical adaptations of literary works. Students work with visual materials and critical texts. Comparisons are made between different adaptations of the same literary work to trace its transformations across different media contexts.

Teaching and assessment: The training consists of contact hours (lectures, film lectures, discussions, etc.) and independent student work. Independent student activities include: consultations with the lecturer, research, completing assignments, etc. The forms of assessment include paper, presentation, or discussion.

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: 4l + 0s + 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

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

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

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

Weekly workload: 2+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. Stiliyan Stoyanov, Department of Literature and Ethnology,
tel. 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: 2+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,
tel. 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 unspoken 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.

SYMBOLISM – SIGNS, THEORIES, INFLUENCES

ECTS Credits: 6

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

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

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

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

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

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.

LITERATURE, GENDER, AND SOCIAL ROLES

ECTS Credits: 6

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

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

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.

WESTERN EUROPEAN LITERATURE – READINGS AND DIALOGUES

EECTS Credits: 6

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

Form of assessment: continuous assessment

Course status: elective

Semester: I – III

Methodological management:

Department of Literature and Ethnology

Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boyka Ilieva, Department of Literature and Ethnology,

Phone: 073/ 588 528;

E-mail: boyka.ilieva@swu.bg

Course outline: The primary objective of the course is to develop students' understanding of recurring themes and motifs in the development of Western European literature, as well as the presence of intertextual connections and dialogues between individual works. The subject focuses on enduring themes, motifs, plots, and character types that recur throughout the evolution of Western European literature from the fourteenth to the twentieth century. The curriculum examines works from different periods, styles, and movements in a comparative framework, highlighting shared issues and motifs. By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to interpret literary and cultural phenomena in a comparative context.

Course content: Western European Literature – Periodization Frameworks. The Sonnet: Structural Framework and Characteristics. The Novel – the Enlightenment Novel (18th Century) and the Social Novel (19th Century). Realism and Verisimilitude. Genre Conventions. What Does the Literary Character Read? Where and How Does the Literary Character Travel? Implicit and Explicit Intertextual Dialogues. The Western European Novel and Its Paratexts. The Motif of Time – Lost, Found, Squandered. Female Characters – Roles and Functions. The Character in Society: Careerists and Marginals. The Character within the Family: Fathers and Children; the Literary Cain and Abel. Crime and Redemption.

Teaching and assessment: The instruction is delivered through lectures and independent study (working individually with literary and critical texts). Assessment of the knowledge in the course is conducted through continuous evaluation of both in-class activities (attendance and participation in sessions) and extracurricular activities (preparation of presentations and research papers) on a scale from 2 to 6. The grade from the continuous evaluation is recorded as the final course grade and converted into an ECTS letter grade (A, B, C, D, E). All written assignments are archived and subject to monitoring in accordance with the university's regulations on educational activities.