

**Elective course: Contemporary literary studies, linguistics, and cultural studies
2018/2019**

Each course lasts 20 class hours (usually 10 session but that depends).

You choose **TWO** out of three courses so that your class workload amounts to 40 hours.

Of the two, you choose **ONE** to take an exam in (the other is the so-called graded verification). You should notify your teacher of your wish to take the exam within the first few weeks of the academic year, say, after the first two sessions.

SEMESTER 1

Prof. UMCS ALEKSANDRA KĘDZIERSKA, **A Taste for Murder**

“We as a culture are obsessed with crime. In the age of cop dramas, legal thrillers and murder documentaries it can be difficult to tell when violence ends and entertainment begins” (M. L. Rio, *Crime and Theatre*). Reflecting and responding to this fascination with crime, the course “A Taste for Murder” (twenty hours in all) will briefly outline the history and development of crime fiction and its most important trends, and then focus on the discussion of selected crime short stories by A. Christie, D. Sayers, G. K. Chesterton, yet also by R. Dahl, S. Paretsky, and N. Gaiman and others.

Students will be provided with a list of texts and critical materials by e-mail. Apart from active in-class participation, each student will be obliged to make an individual presentation dealing with theory of crime fiction.

Prof. HENRYK KARDELA, **The Cognitive Turn in Contemporary Linguistic Studies**

Taking Noam Chomsky’s “modular” Generative Grammar Program as a point of departure for the discussion of the so-called *Cognitive Turn* in contemporary linguistic studies, the course addresses the “non-modularity” thesis advanced by cognitive linguistics, relating it to issues such as the prototype-based organization of categories, a cognitive grammar approach to the semasiology-onomasiology distinction, the lexicon-grammar continuum, the synchrony-diachrony divide and the semantic-pragmatic distinction. Doctoral students will be expected to do some *pre-reading* in order to be able to actively participate in class. To get a grade, students will take an hour-long test on the material covered in the course.

Prof. UMCS CHRISTOPHER GARBOWSKI, **Selected Problems in the Humanities**

The course will offer a broad interdisciplinary look at the humanities in their present state. Each of the classes will explore a problem area either connected with a specific field in the humanities, e.g. one class on new fields of inquiry in history, another class on how philosophy probes popular culture, etc., or an issue that is pertinent to them, e.g. the university and the liberal arts tradition, national identity in times of globalism or multiculturalism and its current problems. The classes will primarily consist of a lecture and a discussion. There will be ten meetings. Participants will be expected to read a brief key text for the class that will be provided in advance. To gain a grade the doctoral student will be asked to write a 1200 to 1600 word essay on the topic of one of the classes, which will essentially constitute a response to the key text and other problems of particular interest to the student raised in that class, as well as personal reflection and possibly additional research on the problem. The essay will furthermore serve as a basis for a discussion between the instructor and the student which be counted into the grade.
