***Syllabus***

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| **Department** | **Department of Russian Studies** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **Year** | | | | | | | 2025./  2026. |
| **Course** | **THE LANGUAGE OF THE DYSTOPIAN NOVEL** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **ECTS** | | | | | | | **3** |
| **Study programme** | **Open to all students.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Level of study programme** | Undergraduate | | | Graduate | | | | | | Integrated | | | | | | Postgraduate | | | | | | | |
| **Type of study programme** | Single major  Double major | | | University | | | | | | Professional | | | | | | Specialized | | | | | | | |
| **Year of study** | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | 5 | | |
| **Semester** | Winter  Summer | | | I | | | | | | II | III | | | | | IV | | | | | | | V |
| VI | | | | | | VII | VIII | | | | | IX | | | | | | | X |
| **Status of the course** | Compulsory | | | Elective | | | | | | Elective course offered to students from other departments | | | | | | **Teaching Competencies** | | | | | | | YES  NO |
| **Workload** | **30** | **L** |  | **S** | |  | | **E** | | **Internet sources for e-learning** | | | | | | | | | | | | | YES  NO |
| **Location and time of instruction** |  | | | | | | | | | **Language(s) in which**  **the course is taught** | | | | | | | | English | | | | | |
| **Course start date** | 24.2.2026. | | | | | | | | | **Course end date** | | | | | | | | 2.6.2026. | | | | | |
| **Enrolment requirements** | Preferably English B1 level. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Course coordinator** | Prof.dr.sc. Rafaela Božić | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **E-mail** | rbozic@unizd.hr; rbozic@inbox.ru | | | | | | | | | | | | **Consultation hours** | | | | | | | Tuesday  17:00 – 18:00 by appointment  [rbozic@inbox.ru](mailto:rbozic@inbox.ru) | | | |
| **Course instructor** | Prof.dr.sc. Rafaela Božić | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **E-mail** | rbozic@unizd.hr; rbozic@inbox.ru | | | | | | | | | | | | **Consultation hours** | | | | | | | by appointment  [rbozic@inbox.ru](mailto:rbozic@inbox.ru) | | | |
| **Assistant/**  **Associate** |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **E-mail** |  | | | | | | | | | | | | **Consultation hours** | | | | | | |  | | | |
| **Assistant/**  **Associate** |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **E-mail** |  | | | | | | | | | | | | **Consultation hours** | | | | | | |  | | | |
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| **Mode of teaching** | Lectures | | | | Seminars and workshops | | | | | Exercises | | | | | E-learning | | | | | | | | Field work |
| Individual assignments | | | | Multimedia and network | | | | | Laboratory | | | | | Mentoring | | | | | | | | Other |
| **Learning outcomes** | | | | | Upon completing this course, students should be able to understand and appreciate the genre of literary dystopia. They will be able to demonstrate their familiarity with common literary terms and apply them in their writing. They should be able to interpret texts by performing close readings of primary sources and using secondary sources on dystopian texts to write a relevant paper on the assigned topic. They will be able to evaluate relations between dystopian texts and their historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Learning outcomes at the Programme level** | | | | | * The ability to write and present research essays. * The ability to use the web as a source for research and information. * The ability to coordinate analyses of image and text. * The ability to share ideas with peers. * The ability to recognize and describe relevant ideas and concepts. * The ability to correlate different approaches. * The ability to apply critical and self-critical (reflexive) approach in argumentation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Assessment criteria** | Class attendance | | | | Preparation for class | | | | | Homework | | | | | Continuous evaluation | | | | | | | | Research |
| Practical work | | | | Experimental work | | | | | Presentation | | | | | Project | | | | | | | | Seminar |
| Test(s) | | | | Written exam | | | | | Oral exam | | | | | Other: | | | | | | | | |
| **Conditions for permission to take the exam** | Class attendance. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Exam periods** | Winter | | | | | | | | | Summer | | | | | | | Autumn­ | | | | | | |
| **Exam dates** |  | | | | | | | | | 5.6.2026. 11:00 and 19.6.2026. 11:00 | | | | | | | 11.9.2026. 11:00  and 25.9.2026. 11:00 | | | | | | |
| **Course description** | This course primarily focuses on the various aspects of language (Stylistics) in creating dystopian novels. We will not focus on a specific language – instead, we will discuss a general poetic role of language in creating dystopian novels. This will allow students to apply given methods of analysis to any language (literature and style) of their choice, making this course interesting to all students interested in learning more about dystopia and about what language is „capable of delivering“ (for example, students of languages and literature, students of sociology, philosophy, anthropology, history of arts, etc.). Thus, the course provides a solid foundation in the literary history and cultural theory of the genre, starting with the question: *Are dystopias unique to the twentieth century?*  We will discuss issues like: exploring some Biblical texts and some literary works from the 17th and 18th centuries. Furthermore, we will focus on the most important works in the dystopian literature of the last century (Orwell, Zamyatin, Platonov, Golding, Huxley). Finally, we will broaden our research into the most recent dystopias (Atwood, Sorokin, Tolstaja, Vojnovich). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Course content** | 1  24.2.2026.  Introduction, syllabus, definitions (Utopia vs Dystopia).  2  3.3.2026.  Dystopia. The origin of the term. Sociological and philosophical background of dystopias. The oldest dystopias (dystopian texts written before the 20th century). Traditional approach to dystopia.  3  10.3.26.  Different approaches to the poetics of dystopia are shown largely at the level of syntax (Zamyatin's poetics of minimalism and highly artistic approach in *We* versus Orwell's poetics of documentary realism in *1984*. The position of other dystopias is shown between these two extremes.)  4  17.3.26.  The role of language in implementing totalitarianism in a dystopian society – Orwell's newspeak as a sign of oppression versus Platonov's neologisms as a means of philosophical shortcut.  5  24.3.26.  Name and Freedom – Name in Dystopian Literature.  6  31.3.26.  The role of the Diary – the Characterization of D-503 in *We*. Linguistic means of characterization of heroes in dystopian novels. Language about the hero – language of the hero.  7  7.4. 26.  Film and dystopian literature (1).  8  14.4. 26.  Lexis of the semantic field *food* in dystopian novels. The importance of this semantic field.  9  17.4.26.  Nature in dystopian and utopian literature.  10  21.4.26.  Motif of literature/books in dystopias.  11  28.4.26.  Video games and dystopian literature.  12  5.5.26.  Film and dystopian literature (2).  13  12.5.26  Expressing trauma in dystopian literature.  14  19.5.26.  15  26.5.26.  Closing lecture. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Required reading** | Zamyatin, Evgenij. *We*, any edition.  Huxley, Aldous. *The Brave New World*, any edition.  Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, any edition.  Božić, R. *Dystopia and Language,* Zadar, 2017.  Božić, R.  **Additionaly** students choose **at least 2 novels** of their own choice (for example)**:**   1. Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid’s Tale,* any edition. 2. Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*, any edition. 3. Burgess, Anthony, *Clockwork* *orange*, any edition. 4. Gearheart, Sally. *The Wanderground*, any edition. 5. Golding, William, *The Lord of the Flies*, any adition. 6. Lem, Stanislav. *The return from the stars*, any edition. 7. Piercy, Marge. *Woman On the Edge of Time*, any edition. 8. Platonov, Andrej. *Chevengur*, any edition. 9. Tolstaja, Tatjana. *Kys*, any edition. 10. Vojnovich, Vladimir. *Moscow 2042*, any edition. 11. Clarke A.C., Baxter S. *The Light of Other Days*, Svjetlost drugih dana, any edition.   Any other dystopian novel – (Spanish, German, Italian...). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Additional reading** | **Additional Sources** (students choose **minimum 30** pages from the given list depending on their interests and knowledge of languages):   1. Bhat, Yashoda. (1991) *Aldous Huxley and George Orwell: A Comparative Study of Satire in Their Novels.* New Delhi: Sterling Publishers Private Limited. 2. Bolton, W.F. (1984) *The Language of 1984: Orwell's English and Ours*. Knoxville, Tennessee: U of Tennessee P. 3. Booker, M. Keith. (1994) *Dystopian Literature*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. 4. Božić-Šejić, R. (2005) "Uloga fonema/grafema u imenovanju likova romana *Mi* Evgenija Zamjatina". In: *Književna smotra* XXXVII, 136 – 137 (2 – 3), Zagreb: HFD, pp. 81 – 88. (available at http://www.unizd.hr) 5. Božić-Šejić, R. (2007) "Rol' dnevnika v harakterizacii personaža D-503 v romane *My* Evgenija Zamjatina". In: *Russian Literature* 62 (1), pp. 91 –98. (www.unizd.hr) 6. Rivero, J.P. (1999) "Utopije i antiutopije u dvadesetom stoljeću". In: *Književna smotra* XXXI, 111(1), Zagreb: HFD, pp. 173 – 183. 7. Lanin, B. A. (1993) *Russkaja literatrunaja antiutopija.* Мoskva. 8. Jakobson, R. *Selected writings.* Any edition. Any language. 9. Horsley, L. (1995) Technopower: Leviathan on Wheels' in Dystopian Science Fiction, In: *Fictions of* *power in English Literature*, Longman, pp. 236 – 282. 10. **Horvat, S*.* (2008)**Rukopisi ne gore! In: ***Budućnost je ovdje: svijet distopijskog filma*** Zagreb: Hrvatski filmski savez, pp. 79 – 83. 11. **Horvat, S*.* (2008)** Pojedinac protiv broja! In: ***Budućnost je ovdje: svijet distopijskog filma*** Zagreb: Hrvatski filmski savez, pp. 103 – 109. 12. Marcus, E. *Speaking the Ineffable: Language and Dystopia*, University of North London, http://www.gradnet.de/papers/pomo99.papers/Marcus99.html 13. O'Brien, Connor Cruise. *Writers and Politics*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1965. http://www.gradnet.de/papers/pomo98.papers/jysideris\_a98.html 14. Orwell, George. *Review of* *We*. Any edition. 15. Sideris, J. *Psychological Manipulation Through the Debasement of Language in Orwell's 1984,* http://www.gradnet.de/papers/pomo98.papers/jysideris\_a98.html 16. Sisk, W.D. (1997) *Transformations of Language in Modern Dystopias*. Greenwood Press. Westport, www.questia.com 17. Zamjatin, E. *O sintetizme*. Any edition. Any languge. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Internet sources** | 1. Božić, Rafaela: THE SEMANTICS OF FOOD IN RUSSIAN UTOPIA AND DYSTOPIA, <https://www.academia.edu/25874190/THE_SEMANTICS_OF_FOOD_IN_RUSSIAN_UTOPIA_AND_DYSTOPIA> 2. Božić, Rafaela: A CHARACTER'S LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE CONCERNING CHARACTER, <https://www.academia.edu/25589252/A_CHARACTERS_LANGUAGE_AND_LANGUAGE_CONCERNING_CHARACTER> 3. Božić, Rafaela: DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO POETICS AND DYSTOPIA, <https://www.academia.edu/25503709/DIFFERENT_APPROACHES_TO_POETICS_AND_DYSTOPIA> 4. Božić, Rafaela: CHARACTERS AND THEIR NAMES, <https://www.academia.edu/25445197/CHARACTERS_AND_THEIR_NAMES>   Na hrvatskom: <https://www.academia.edu/8657064/ULOGA_FONEMA_GRAFEMA_U_IMENOVANJU_LIKOVA_ROMANA_MI_EVGENIJA_ZAMJATINA>   1. Božić-Šejić, R. (2007) "Prijevodni rusko-hrvatski sintaksni ekvivalenti na primjerima romana *Mi* Evgenija Zamjatina (lingvostilistička uloga crte)"*.* In: *Zadarski filološki dani* *I* 1, pp. 177 – 186. <https://www.academia.edu/20182612/PRIJEVODNI_RUSKO-HRVATSKI_SINTAKSNI_EKVIVALENTI_NA_PRIMJERIMA_ROMANA_MI_EVGENIJA_ZAMJATINA_LINGVOSTILISTI%C4%8CKA_ULOGA_CRTE_> 2. Božić-Šejić, R. (2009) "Leksik semantičkog polja hrana u romanima E. Zamjatina *Mi* i A. Platonova *Čevengur* i *Iskop*". In: *Književna smotra* XLI, 151(1), pp. 91 – 98, (available at: <http://www.unizd.hr>)   All available sources. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Assessment criteria of learning outcomes** | Final exam only | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | |
| Final written exam | | | | | | Final oral exam | | | | | | | Final written and oral exam | | | | | | | | Practical work and final exam | |
| Only test/homework | | | | Test/homework and final exam | | | | | Seminar paper | | | | Seminar paper and final exam | | | | | Practical work | | | | other forms |
| **Calculation of final grade** | Grading is on a % scale, with the following ratio:  1) Final Written Exam 40%  2) Final Oral Exam 30 %  3) Attendance and participation in class discussions 30% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Grading scale** | 0-60 | | | | % Failure (1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 61-70 | | | | % Satisfactory (2) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 71-80 | | | | % Good (3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 81-90 | | | | % Very good (4) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 91-100 | | | | % Excellent (5) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Course evaluation procedures** | Student evaluations conducted by the University  Student evaluations conducted by the Department  Internal evaluation of teaching  Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations  Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Note /Other** | In accordance with Art. 6 of the *Code of Ethics* of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, “the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice.”  According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar's *Code of Ethics*, students are expected to “fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. […] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. […]  Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:  - various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted;  -various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam; impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results.”  All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the *Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar* will be applied.  In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.  This course uses the Merlin system for e-learning, so students are required to have an AAI account. /*delete if necessary*/ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |