



COURSE SYLLABUS

Current Trends in Literary Research/ Direcții actuale în cercetarea literară

Academic Year 2026-2027

1. Information about the study program

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Letters
1.3 Doctoral School	Doctoral School of Linguistic and Literary Studies
1.4 Field of study	Philology
1.5 Study cycle	Doctorate
1.6 Study program/Qualification	Doctorate in Philology/ Doctor of Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1 Course title		LDR 1103 – Current trends in literary research				Course code		LDR1103	
2.2 Course tutor			Conf. univ. dr. habil. Bianca-Elena Bican/ Lect. univ. dr. habil. Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu						
2.3 Seminar/practical course tutor			Conf. univ. dr. habil. Bianca-Elena Bican/ Lect. univ. dr. habil. Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu						
2.4 Year of study	I	2.5 Semester	1	2.6 Type of evaluation	E	2.7 Course status	Contents	DS	
							Mandatory	DO	

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1. Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar / practical course (laboratory)	2
3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum	48	of which: 3.5 course	24	3.6 seminar / practical course (laboratory)	24
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					48
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					80
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					48
Tutoring					12
Assessment (examinations)					4
Other activities:					10
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)	202				
3.8. Total hours per semester	250				
3.9. Number of credits	10				



4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 Curriculum	No
4.2 Skills	No

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for delivering lectures	Course room/educational platform, audio system, VP, printed and electronic resources
5.2. for teaching seminars / practical courses (laboratory classes)	Course room/educational platform, audio system, VP, printed and electronic resources

6. Acquired specific skills

6.1. Competences resulting from the completion of the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)¹

Professional competences	
Competence code	Competence
PC1	Advanced knowledge in the fields of philology, literature, linguistics, literary theory, cultural history, and discourse studies
PC2	Ability to identify, formulate, and creatively solve research problems specific to the field of Philology
PC3	Mastery of advanced research methods and techniques, including literary analysis, linguistic analysis, hermeneutics, philological research, archival research, corpus analysis, genetic criticism, literary history, cultural studies, and comparative methodologies
PC4	Ability to employ contemporary paradigms in linguistic research, including diachronic, synchronic, diatopic, pragmatic, normative, onomastic, discourse-oriented, and sociolinguistic approaches
PC5	Ability to identify, evaluate, and apply contemporary literary and cultural paradigms
PC6	Ability to integrate interdisciplinary perspectives into philological research, including history, philosophy, cultural anthropology, gender studies, childhood studies, memory studies, trauma studies, postcolonial studies, and alterity studies
PC7	Skills in documenting, selecting, interpreting, and critically exploiting primary and secondary sources
PC8	Ability to produce scholarly papers, research reports, articles, book chapters, and doctoral dissertations in accordance with national and international academic standards
PC9	Ability to process, organize, and interpret textual, linguistic, bibliographic, and archival data, including through the use of appropriate digital tools
PC10	Ability to design, develop, and manage research projects, including the preparation of research proposals and funding applications, as well as securing resources through national and European funding competitions
PC11	Ability to critically evaluate (peer review) the research of other scholars and to formulate well-reasoned and constructive assessments of scholarly work
PC12	Ability to manage research data responsibly in accordance with Open Science principles, including data management plans, FAIR principles, and the deposit of research outputs in open-access archives and repositories
Competences regarding ethics, integrity and research management	

¹ The professional and/or transversal skills targeted by the subject for which the course description is prepared will be copied from the curriculum of the degree programme. For each competence, the complete entry, including the competence code, will be copied with the exact designation that appears in the curriculum, without any changes. If no competence is copied from either of the two categories, the row corresponding to that category is deleted from the table.



Competence code	Competence
EC2	Ability to avoid plagiarism, self-plagiarism, data fabrication, data falsification, and other forms of research misconduct
EC3	Ability to design, plan, and manage a doctoral research project, including objectives, hypotheses, methodology, timetable, corpus, sources, outcomes, and dissemination activities
EC4	Knowledge of copyright, intellectual property, proper citation practices, open access principles, and the responsible use of digital resources
EC5	Ability to critically assess the limitations of one's own research and to formulate directions for further investigation
EC6	Knowledge of institutional procedures regarding ethical approval of research (ethics committees) and the application of regulations concerning informed consent and the responsible processing of data, where applicable
Transversal competences	
Competence code	Competence
TC1	Advanced oral and written scientific communication skills in academic, cultural, and professional contexts
TC2	Advanced proficiency in international languages required for research, academic writing, and the presentation of research findings
TC3	Advanced digital competences, including the use of databases, digital libraries, bibliographic management tools, linguistic corpora, and artificial intelligence tools in a critical and responsible manner
TC4	Ability to work both independently and collaboratively, including in interdisciplinary, multicultural, and multilingual environments
TC5	Critical thinking, synthesis, evaluation, and argumentation skills in scientific and professional contexts
TC6	Competences related to academic and non-academic career management, knowledge transfer, and the societal valorisation of research outcomes
TC7	Capacity for innovation and the development of cultural, educational, editorial, or applied research initiatives
TC8	Teaching and mentoring competences required for conducting lectures, seminars, and student supervision activities in higher education
TC9	Competences in science communication aimed at the general public and non-specialist audiences, including public engagement, dissemination, and cultural outreach
TC10	Coordination and leadership skills in research teams and in complex and unpredictable professional environments

6.2. Learning outcomes relevant to the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)²

Learning outcomes targeted by the subject		
Competence code	Knowledge and comprehension	Specific academic skills
PC1, PC3, PC4, PC5, PC6, EC4, TC1, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC9	1. To demonstrate advanced and specialized knowledge in the field of Philology, situated at the forefront of literary, linguistic, and cultural research and at the interface between related disciplines	1. To transfer the competences acquired to professional activities in research, higher education, publishing, cultural communication, language and cultural policy, and cultural management

² The learning outcomes relevant for the degree programme and targeted by the subject for which the course description is prepared will be listed. The entries, copied without any changes from the Curriculum (Core Subject/Specialisation Subject/Complementary Subject), are listed under the corresponding competence.



PC2, PC7, PC8, PC9, PC10, EC1, EC3, EC4, EC5, TC1, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7, TC10	2. To formulate independently an original research problem and to develop an appropriate theoretical and methodological framework	2. To demonstrate autonomy, responsibility, originality, and innovation in conducting doctoral research
PC2, PC6, PC7, PC8, PC10, EC3, EC5, EC6, TC1, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7, TC10	7. To integrate interdisciplinary perspectives into the interpretation of texts and cultural phenomena	7. To develop project proposals and funding applications, and to manage a research project with regard to its objectives, resources, timeline, and dissemination activities
PC4, PC5, PC8, PC9, PC11, PC12, EC2, EC4, EC6, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7, TC8, TC9	8. To communicate research findings to the general public and non-specialist audiences, thereby contributing to the social and cultural dissemination of knowledge	8. To communicate research findings through oral presentations, handouts, slide presentations, research reports, scholarly articles, and academic debates

7. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge and comprehension
1. To demonstrate advanced and specialized knowledge in the field of Philology, situated at the forefront of literary, linguistic, and cultural research and at the interface between related disciplines. 2. To formulate independently an original research problem and to develop an appropriate theoretical and methodological framework . 3. To integrate interdisciplinary perspectives into the interpretation of texts and cultural phenomena 4. To communicate research findings to the general public and non-specialist audiences, thereby contributing to the social and cultural dissemination of knowledge.
Specific academic skills



1. To transfer the competences acquired to professional activities in research, higher education, publishing, cultural communication, language and cultural policy, and cultural management.
2. To demonstrate autonomy, responsibility, originality, and innovation in conducting doctoral research.
3. To develop project proposals and funding applications, and to manage a research project with regard to its objectives, resources, timeline, and dissemination activities.
4. To communicate research findings through oral presentations, handouts, slide presentations, research reports, scholarly articles, and academic debates

8. Contents

8.1 Course/ Module 1 (Bican)	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction. Presentation of the course. The role of interdisciplinary studies in the humanities.	Interactive lecture; debate	
2. Modes of knowledge in the exact sciences and in the humanities.	Interactive lecture; debate	
3. What is a paradigm?	Interactive lecture; debate	
4. Specific contexts and uses of the term.	Interactive lecture; debate	
5. Abuse of terminology transfer from hard to soft sciences.	Interactive lecture; debate	
6. From inter- to transdisciplinarity.	Interactive lecture; debate	

Bibliography: will be provided to the doctoral students in an editable OneDrive folder.

Compulsory reading list:

Flonta, Mircea: Imagini ale științei. Ediție nouă, revăzută și întregită cu un nou studiu și un epilog. Oradea: Ratio et Revelatio 2024. (selections)

Schaffer, Simon: How disciplines look. In: Barry, Andrew/ Born, Georgina (eds.): Interdisciplinarity. Reconfigurations of the social and the natural sciences. London, New York: Routledge 2013, p. 57-77.

Sokal, Alan: Beyond the hoax. Science, philosophy and culture. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press 2008.

8.1. Course/ Module 2 (Fătu-Tutoveanu)	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction: Overview of course topics, syllabus, bibliography, and assessment criteria.	Interactive lecture; debate	This interactive module explicitly encourages doctoral students' interventions on the topics addressed.
2. Collective Memory and Identity Construction: Theoretical and Social Frameworks.	Interactive lecture; debate	
3. Cultural Policies and the Politics of Memory.	Interactive lecture; debate	
4. Literature and Memory: Fragmentary Narrative, Fiction, and Literary Testimony.	Interactive lecture; debate	
5. Mapping Memory: Conceptualizing Spaces and Cultural Landscapes.	Interactive lecture; debate	
6. Posthumanism, Digital Memory, and the Literary Archives of the Future: Emerging Research Directions.	Interactive lecture; debate	



Bibliography. The mandatory readings will be shared with doctoral candidates via a collaborative Google Drive repository, alongside a curated dossier of literary excerpts designated for text analysis.

Bal, Mieke. *Travelling Concepts in the Humanities: A Rough Guide*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 2002.

Casey, Edward S. *Remembering: A Phenomenological Study*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2000.

Erll, Astrid, Ansgar Nünning, and Sara B. Young (eds.), *A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies*. De Gruyter, 2010.

Erll, Astrid; Rigney, Ann (eds.). *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*, Berlin, Walter de Gruyter, 2008

Even-Zohar, Itamar. "Polysystem Studies", în *Poetics Today*, vol. 11, nr. 1, 1990.

Halbwachs, Maurice, and Lewis A. Coser. *On Collective Memory*. Vol. 10. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Hodgkin, Katharine, and Susannah Radstone, eds. *Memory, History, Nation: Contested Pasts*. Transaction Publishers, 2005.

8.2 Seminar/ Module 1 (Bican)	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction. Presentation of the main themes, of the reading list and the examination requirements.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
2. Problems of disciplinarity.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
3. Lecture and discussion: Th. Kuhn.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
4. Correct/ incorrect uses of the term.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
5. Case studies and individual presentations.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
6. Lecture and discussion: B. Nicolescu.	Heuristic conversation; debate	

Bibliography: will be provided to the doctoral students in an editable OneDrive folder.

Compulsory reading list:

Kuhn, Thomas S.: *Structura revoluțiilor științifice*. Traducere din engleză de Radu J. Bogdan. Studiu introductiv de Mircea Flonta. București: Humanitas 2008. (selectiv)

Nicolescu, Basarab: *Transdisciplinaritatea. Manifest*. Traducere de Horia Mihail Vasilescu. Iași: Polirom 1999.

Sokal, Alan/ Bricmont, Jean: *Fashionable nonsense. Postmodern intellectuals' abuse of science*. New York: Picador 1998.

8.2. Seminar/ Module 2 (Fătu-Tutoveanu)	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction: Overview of seminar topics, syllabus, bibliography, and assessment criteria.	Heuristic conversation; debate	This interactive module explicitly encourages doctoral students' interventions on the topics addressed.
2. Debates grounded in the seminar's theoretical literature concerning the distinction between official history and collective memory, and the cultural matrices defining these issues.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
3. The Politics of Memory and Cultural Policies across Communism and Post-Communism: A Case-Study.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
4. Life-Writing Literature: Narratives of Memory and Postmemory	Heuristic conversation; debate	
5. Literary Mapping of Urban Spaces: Exploring <i>Topophilia</i> and <i>Topophobia</i> in selected case studies.	Heuristic conversation; debate	
6. Theoretical Debates on Posthumanism: Redefining Authorship, Textual Boundaries, Collective Memory, and Data Preservation.	Heuristic conversation; debate	



Bibliography. The mandatory readings will be shared with doctoral candidates via a collaborative Google Drive repository, alongside a curated dossier of literary excerpts designated for text analysis.

Braidotti, Rosi. *The Posthuman*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013.

Fătu-Tutoveanu, Laura Cernat, Bajola Shatro. "Cultural Memory in Eastern European Women's Life Writing: Agency, Persistence, Legacies". *Dacoromania litteraria*, vol. 10, 2023, pp. 5-17.

Rusu, M. S. (2023). *Locuri ale memoriei: Politicile simbolice ale spațiului public într-un oraș memorial*. Editura Universității "Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu.

Rusu, Mihai Stelian. *Bătălia pentru trecut: Politici ale memoriei în România postcomunistă*, Iași, Editura Institutul European, 2024.

Vasile, Cristian. *Politicile culturale comuniste în timpul regimului Gheorghiu-Dej*, București, Editura Humanitas, 2011.

9. Assessment (examination)

To graduate from the discipline, doctoral students will opt to be assessed **in one of the two modules** and also complete the work assignments of both modules. The course tutors jointly agree on two examination dates during the official exam session. Two weeks before the end of teaching activities, the doctoral students jointly submit a request to the director of the doctoral school, asking to be evaluated in one of the modules. The request will include three lists showing the distribution of the doctoral students registered for evaluation with each of the modules. Both the collective request and the individual certificates will be signed by the evaluating professor (who determines the grade), by the other two professors, and by the doctoral supervisor (who cannot be an evaluator). The ratings are **very good, good, satisfactory** or **unsatisfactory**.

Type of activity	9.1 Assessment criteria	9.2 Assessment methods	9.3 Weight in the final grade
Module 1			
9.4 Course (Bican/ Fătu-Tutoveanu)	The reading and critical analysis of the bibliography, individual interpretation, active participation in discussions.	Examination: The PhD students must deliver a brief presentation, related to their own doctoral research topic, and accompanied by a hand-out (2-3 slides), during the exam session.	50% of the final grade
9.5 Seminar (Bican/ Fătu-Tutoveanu)	Active participation at the seminar and the discussions.	Active participation at the seminar, presentation of case studies.	50% of the final grade

9.6 Basic performance standard



The reading and critical analysis of the bibliography, individual interpretation, active participation in discussions, the presentation of case studies.

10. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)³

	☒	Sustainable Development Generic Label						
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
								No label applies
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Date:
31.08.2026

Course tutor's name and signature

Module 1

Conf. univ. dr. habil. Bianca-Elena Bican

Seminar tutor's name and signature

Module 1

Conf. univ. dr. habil. Bianca-Elena Bican

Module 2

Lect.univ.dr.habil. Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu

(căs. Florean)

Module 2

Lect.univ.dr.habil. Andrada Fătu-Tutoveanu

(căs. Florean)

Date of approval:
10.09.2026

Head of Doctoral School of Linguistic and Literary

Studies's name and signature,

³ Select a single label which, according to the [Implementation of SDG labels in the academic process](#), best matches the subject. If the subject addresses sustainable development in a generic manner (i.e. by presenting/introducing the general framework of sustainable development, etc.), then the Sustainable Development generic label may be applied. If none of the labels describe the subject, select the last option: "No label applies."



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Facultatea de Litere
Str. Horea nr. 31
400202, Cluj-Napoca
<https://lett.ubbcluj.ro>

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adrian CHIRCU-BUFTEA

Digitally signed by
ADRIAN CHIRCU-BUFTEA
Date: 2026.09.11 22:17:05 +03'00'



MOLDOVAN 1941-PARES
Data vizării 2026.09.14 14:52
Numele și semnătura decanului