VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
44410 Research in literature: Synchronic perspectives

COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 44410
Name: Research in literature: Synchronic perspectives
Cycle: Master's Degree
ECTS Credits: 5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
2207 - Master's Degree in Language and Literature Research	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
2207 - Master's Degree in Language and Literature Research	Advanced research in languages and literatures	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

GREGORI SOLDEVILA CARME

SUMMARY

Module **44412 Research in Language: Synchronic Perspectives** is an elective module that is part of the subject *Advanced Research in Languages and Literatures*, designed as a specialization to deepen the techniques and methodologies acquired in the compulsory modules. The module will introduce students to advanced aspects of literature research from a synchronic perspective. It is divided into two courses:

Literatures in Contact

This course explores the interaction between languages and literatures from multiple perspectives, including comparative literature, hypertextuality, and postcolonial studies. Through the analysis of works by contemporary authors, students will examine key topics such as the relationship between myth and literature, hypertextual transformations (including formal, semantic, and pragmatic aspects) as well as the impact of bilingualism and multilingualism on literature, particularly in intercultural regions and in contexts of exile or migration.

Literature and Society

This course examines key theoretical approaches to the relationship between literature and Western society. Topics include the sociology of literature, the book industry, transtextuality, the interplay between reality and fiction, literature and historical memory, and the role of literature in addressing social issues such as gender, social class, and linguistic or national identities.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that students have sufficient proficiency in the Spanish language to understand spoken presentations on scientific and literary topics of all kinds, without the need for adaptation, as well as to work effectively with the recommended bibliography.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

2207 - Master's Degree in Language and Literature Research

Know how to apply acquired knowledge and problem-solving skills in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their area of study.

Know how to communicate your conclusions (and the underlying knowledge and reasons) to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in a clear and unambiguous way.

Possess the learning skills that will allow them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.

Students should possess and understand foundational knowledge that enables original thinking and research in the field.

To acquire an interest in encouraging, through academic and professional concepts, the scientific, social and cultural progress of a society based on the knowledge of the field of languages and literatures.

To acquire the appropriate methodologies for scientific research in languages and literatures.

To acquire the sufficient knowledge for approaching texts scientifically from
different contextual perspectives.

To be able to contribute, through monographs, analytical works, and, especially, the Master's Thesis, to expanding the boundaries of knowledge by developing a corpus worthy of publication.

To be able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of formulating judgments from information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.

To be capable of conceiving, designing and implementing a research process in the field of languages and literatures with responsibility and scientific rigour.

To be capable of locating, managing and synthesising specialised bibliographic information, in both the target language used in the Masters Degree and other modern languages, either in libraries or in physical or online archives.

To develop an ethical commitment, focusing on aspects such as gender equality, equality of opportunities, values of culture of peace, democratic values and environmental and sustainability issues, as well as the knowledge and appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism.

To have a good command of the different techniques and methodologies for analysing and interpreting complex texts from a formal and/or conceptual standpoint.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

Literatures in contact

Analytical perspectives: Comparative literature, hypertextuality, and postcolonialism. From the universal to the particular: Myths and literatures. Hypertextual transformations as a form of interliterary dialogue. Cultural intersections: Literature interfered with by bilingualism or multilingualism in intercultural territories or in situations of exile and migration.

Literature and society

1. Literature and Society. Key disciplines and fundamental concepts: what is the sociology of literature. The book industry: production, dissemination, and reception.

2. Transtextuality. Literature and other forms of expression, especially film and comics. Literature and contemporary culture: a complex relationship. Cultural studies.

3. Social Engagement in Literature: Engagement and aesthetics: are they a problematic relationship? Literature, translation, and political activism. Literature and identity. Feminism, gender, and literature. Literature and migration. Literature and violence. Postcolonial studies.

4. Literature and Historical Memory. Autobiography, memory, and writing. Fiction and reality, novel and essay.

The contents of this module are designed to support the acquisition of the following learning outcomes: the ability to explain and analyse texts and cultural productions with scientific rigour and from diverse contextual perspectives; the application of methodologies and techniques for in-depth textual and cultural analysis; the ability to locate, evaluate and contrast relevant bibliography; and the critical analysis of differences and phenomena arising from the contact between literatures and cultural productions, as well as their relationship with the societies in which they are developed.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	32,50
Total hours	**32,50**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	50,00
Preparation of lessons	12,50
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**92,50**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching and learning methodology for this module is structured around two types of activities: face-to-face sessions and independent work.

The approach is designed to promote active and progressive student learning, combining individual study with participation and collaborative work in class. It encourages both theoretical and practical engagement with comparative literature, its methods, perspectives, and analytical tools, while fostering critical reflection on the interaction between different literary traditions and between literature and other cultural or semiotic systems.

a) Face-to-face activities:

These include both theoretical and practical sessions aimed at exploring the central issues of the module. Students will also become familiar with the works of various contemporary writers. The methodology is based on:

1. **Theoretical lectures, covering the topics outlined in the syllabus, following the structure of the corresponding thematic units. These sessions will be complemented by required readings, which students should complete in advance or during the sessions.**

2. **Practical activities, including reading discussions, participation in debates, and oral presentations. These activities are intended to deepen students' understanding of key concepts and the dynamics of literary contact zones, as well as the relationships between literature and society.**

b) Independent work:

Students will complete individual or group assignments related to the module¿s content. These tasks involve bibliographic research, critical reading of representative texts, and engagement with the debates and issues addressed in the course. The aim is to develop students' ability to think critically, engage actively in constructing knowledge of comparative literature, reflect on the relationship between literature and society, and work autonomously. Additionally, students will strengthen their skills in critically assessing bibliographic sources and digital resources, as well as interpreting oral and written texts related to the course. The Virtual Classroom platform will be used for submitting assignments, participating in online activities, and maintaining communication with the teaching staff.

Throughout the thematic units of the module, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be addressed in a cross-cutting manner, with a particular focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

EVALUATION

The assessment for Module **44410 Research in Literature: Synchronic Perspectives** will be based on the evaluation of the competencies and knowledge acquired by the student.

Students are required to complete a single final assignment focused on one of the two courses that comprise the module. The topic and approach of the assignment must be agreed upon with the teaching staff. Students are expected to communicate their chosen topic within the first month of the course.

The final assignment will consist of a written paper that must meet the following requirements:

Maximum length: 10 pages (A4 format)

Formatting:

- Font: Times New Roman, size 12

- Line spacing: 1.5
- Margins: default Word settings

The cover and any possible appendices will not count toward the page limit.

Assessment will also take into account students' participation and engagement in class activities. The teaching staff will provide clear guidance regarding the nature and submission of these assessed tasks.

Assessment components and weighting:

a) Final written assignment: 50%

b) Attendance and active participation in classes and other activities during the teaching period of the unit *Literatures in Contact*: 25%

c) Attendance and active participation in classes and other activities during the teaching period of the unit *Literature and Society*: 25%

The final assignment may be resubmitted during the second assessment period. Students may also retake the participation-based components through oral presentations, as specified by the teaching staff.

In order for the final assignment to be counted towards the overall grade, it must achieve a minimum mark of 5 out of 10.

Assignments not submitted according to the specified format and deadline will not be accepted. Detection of plagiarism or incorrect use of bibliographic sources in any assessed activity will result in a fail grade for that activity.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community, and for the fair evaluation of students' work. All work submitted for this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software, unless their use is part of the contents of the course and is authorised by the teaching staff.

The general grading system will comply with the regulations of the University of Valencia, approved by the Governing Council on 30 May 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

REFERENCES

Literatures in contact

CALERO, Ana R. / PUJANTE, Domingo / TERUEL, Miguel (eds.). *Cruzando la frontera. Quaderns de Filologia. Estudis literaris*, 12, 2007.

CHEVREL, Yves. *La littérature comparée*. París: PUF, 2023.

GENETTE, Gérard. *Palimpsestos. La literatura de segundo grado*. Madrid: Taurus, 1989.

MARTÍNEZ-FALERO, Luis. "Literatura y mito: desmitificacion, intertextualidad, reescritura", *Signa*, 22, p. 481-496, 2013.

POCH, Dolors / JULIÀ, Jordi (eds.). *Escribir con dos voces. Bilingüismo, contacto idiomático y autotraducción en literaturas ibéricas*. Publicacions de la Universitat de València, 2020.

Literature and society

BUTLER, Judith. *El género en disputa: el feminismo y la subversión de la identidad*. Barcelona: Paidós, 2023.

CALVINO, Italo. *Punto y aparte. Ensayos sobre literatura y sociedad*. Madrid: Siruela, 2013.

LUKÁCS, György. *Sociología de la literatura*. Barcelona: Península, 1966.

ORTEGA Y GASSET, José. *La deshumanización del arte*. Madrid: Biblioteca Nueva, 2005.

SPIVAK, Gayatri Chakravorty. *Crítica de la razón poscolonial: hacia una historia del presente evanescente*. Madrid: Akal, 2010.