Department of English Literatures and Cultures

Suggested thesis topics

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# Albert Noémi

1. Aspects of modernist British fiction and culture (identity, temporality, narrative, gender, etc.)
2. Issues of British postmodernism (metanarrative, metahistory, deconstruction, identity, destabilisation, postcolonialism) through selected literary works (Julian Barnes, Kazuo Ishiguro, Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan, Graham Swift, Jeanette Winterson)
3. Representations of contemporary issues (such as privacy, society, politics, gender, diaspora, and others) in selected works (Zadie Smith, David Mitchell, Emma Donoghue, Ali Smith, Jon McGregor, Mark Haddon)
4. The dramatic works of Samuel Beckett

# Csikai Zsuzsa

1. Aspects of modern British and Irish drama (issues of postcoloniality, gender, identity, etc., exploration of individual works and authors)
2. Exploration of the works of Irish short story writers (aspects of the genre of the short story, issues of Irish culture explored through short stories)
3. Examination of issues of modern Irish society, culture and politics
4. Topics in translation studies (the politics of translation, the ethics of translation, translation theory, etc.)
5. Investigation of aspects of literary translation (analysis of Hungarian literature translated into English)

# Fodor Mónika

1. Narrative-based ethnographic approaches to American identity
2. Issues in US history
3. Studies in oral and life histories in a US context
4. Racial and ethnic groups in the USA (historical and cultural anthropological perspectives of understanding Native American, African American, Euro American, Latino, Asian American etc. cultures)
5. Social issues in the USA (religion, education, politics etc.)
6. American documentary and autobiographical documentary films
7. Representations of US society and history in film and other media
8. Sociolinguistic approaches to narrative
9. Teaching culture in EFL

# Gyuris Norbert

1. Examination of the work of a writer in postmodern American fiction (Thomas Pynchon, Don DeLillo, John Barth, etc.)
2. Thematic and structural aspects of metafiction in the 1970’s and 1980’s literature of the United States and Great Britain (Vladimir Nabokov, Kurt Vonnegut, John Fowles, Julien Barnes, etc.)
3. Issues of contemporary cultural trends in the United States (special characteristics of the consumer society, electronic culture, mass media, etc.)
4. Exploration of an author, work of art or cultural phenomenon in post-WWII popular English-speaking culture and literature (cyberpunk, feminist science-fiction, fantasy, steampunk, ribofunk etc.)
5. Investigation of the Beat-generation and the counter-culture of the 1950’s and 1960’s in the US (Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs etc.)

# Hartvig Gabriella

1. Analysis of individual works (or comparison of more works) by British or Anglo-Irish authors: Laurence Sterne, Mary Shelley*,* Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf, John Fowles*,* George Orwell*,* Jonathan Coe, etc.
2. Eighteenth-century narratives (the imaginary voyage, the philosophical novel, the sentimental novel, confessional literature, the epistolary novel, parody of the novel form etc.)
3. The concept of poetical justice and drama theories in the Restoration period and in the eighteenth century
4. Laurence Sterne and the development of the humorous novel
5. The reception of British and Anglo-Irish authors
6. The Gothic Revival (Horace Walpole, Ann Radcliff, Maria Edgeworth, Mary Shelley, Matthew Lewis)
7. Adaptations of British novels to the screen
8. Women writers in the early Romantic and Victorian periods (Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, the Brontë sisters)

# Maczelka Csaba

1. Thomas More’s *Utopia* (editions, paratexts, textuality, translation)
2. The early modern English utopian tradition (More, Bacon, Cavendish, Neville)
3. Early modern English literature (prose fiction, travel literature, dialogues, translation, printing)
4. Genres and authors in early modern English literature (More, Shakespeare, Bacon, Milton etc.)
5. Modern utopian/dystopian literature (individual authors and texts like Huxley, Orwell, Atwood etc.)
6. Digital humanities and literary studies (historiography, development, current issues)

# Sári B. László

1. British and American film (history) (individual auteurs, genres, specific trends in filmmaking, film, technology, & ideology, etc.)
2. Literary adaptations (adaptations of literary authors from Shakespeare to E. M. Forster and to Stephen King, comparative approaches to multiple adaptations, intermedial aspects of adaptation, etc.)
3. Social and political issues in post-war America (political movements and issues in the US, social and cultural anxieties, politics and media, culture and the Cold War, etc.)
4. Modern and postmodern American fiction (literary genres, oeuvres from that of Henry James’s onward, reception and critical understanding, social issues & aesthetic considerations and trends in fiction, etc.)
5. The history of literary criticism and cultural studies in Great Britain and in the U.S.

# Szamosi Gertrud

1. Formal and thematic concerns in Victorian literature
2. Modern and postmodern literature in Britian
3. Exploring theoretical and literary aspects of post/colonialism (orientalism, hybridity, alterity etc.)
4. The empire writes back (literature of the former colonies)
5. Narratives of identity (national, social and gender) in18-21th century British literature
6. Scottish culture and literature
7. Canadian culture and literature in the context of nation, region, gender and multiculturalism
8. The cultural legacy of the Hungarian diaspora in Canada
9. The popular features of gothic literatures and films

# Szélpál Lívia

1. Issues of British and American History
2. US Politics and Culture
   * Social, Historical and Cultural Issues in the American Century
   * The Formation of the Black Political Thought and Identity (W. E. B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, etc.)
   * The Historical Perspectives of the American Dream: from the Declaration of Independence to the Biden-Harris Administration
   * The Constitution and Federalism
   * Institutions of the Government
   * Environmental Politics and Environmentalism
   * The American Party System and Voting
   * The Political Machine
3. US Urban History and Culture
   * Urban Planning Scenarios after Natural Disasters in the Fin de siécle USA
   * Comparative Urban History: asymmetrical comparison of the American and Hungarian Cities in the 19th and 20th century
   * US Urban Politics after 9/11
   * The Politics of Urban Resilience
4. American Literature and Culture in the 19th and 20th century
   * The History, Culture, and Literature of the Jim Crow Era
   * Muckraking Literature, Slum Fiction, and Photojournalism of the Progressive Era (Jacob Riis, Ida Tarbell, Florence Kelley, Lincoln Steffens, Stephen Crane, Upton Sinclair, etc.)
   * The Harlem Renaissance (James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Zora Neale Hurston)
   * The Visual Representation of Poverty in the History of American Documentary Photography (Lewis Hine, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Margaret Bourke-White, etc.)
   * Modern American Drama (Tenessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, Eugene O’Neill, etc.)
   * Reading the City: the representation of the American City in literature and film
5. Film Studies: the interrelations of film and American history (the Historical Fiction Film, the Documentary Film, the Narrative Paradigm of History, and the White Savior Narrative)
6. Intellectual History: alternative and unconventional histories, alternative concepts of American culture and society

# Voelker, John

1. Early Modern & Modern American Religious Movements and their Writings — Encratite/Ascetic, Utopian, Apocalyptic/Millenarian Sects
2. The Canon American of American Wilderness Writers — Thoreau, Muir, Grey Owl, Leopold, Olson, McPhee, Berry
3. The Confessional Autobiography Novel in Canadian Literature: Robertson Davies
4. Slight Rebellion off Modern Culture: The Short Canon of J.D. Salinger
5. The 20th Century Coalescence of Science Fiction Literature
6. Literary-Historical Hoaxes in Modern/Postmodern Publications

# Vöő Gabriella

1. The culture and literature of the Revolution and the early republic (political thought, institutional history, issues of nationalism, race relations, gender)
2. American culture before the Civil War and American prose writing (Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Harriet Beecher Stowe)
3. Social movements in the US and the literature of reform (Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau; Margaret Fuller, the Peabody sisters, Bronson Alcott, Lydia Maria Child, Harriet Beecher Stowe)
4. Nineteenth-century American poetry (Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson)
5. Culture and literature after the Civil War (Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, Charles Chesnutt, Kate Chopin, Charlotte Perkins Gilman)
6. The culture and literature of American modernism (W. E. B. Du Bois, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Eugene O’Neill, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Flannery O’Connor, Zora Neale Hurston, Tennessee Williams)
7. American poetry in the interwar period (Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Langston Hughes, William Carlos Williams)
8. American ethnic culture and literature (N. Scott Momaday, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louise Erdrick, Gerald Vizenor; Maxine Hong Kingston, Frank Chin, Amy Tan, David Henry Hwang, John Okada; Sandra Cisneros, Gloria Anzaldúa, Arturo Islas, Oscar Zeta Acosta; Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Imamu Amiri Baraka, Gwendolyn Brooks)
9. The literature of American regions in the nineteenth and twentieth century (the North, the South, the Midwest, the West)