

## Syllabus

Course title: The Anthropology of Heroes, Celebrities, and Exemplary Figures				
Language of instruction: English				
Study year and semester: 2020/2				
Course coordinator(s) / lecturer(s): István Povedák Dr.				
Contact details: povedak@mome.hu				
Level and Code: M-SZ-201-ELM-2019202-10	Position in the Curriculum:	Recommended semester:	Credits: 5	Teaching hours: Student workload:
Related codes: ER-THEO-MA-ELM-2019202-01 B-SZ-301-ELM-2019202-03	Type: ( <u>lecture/</u> <u>seminar/practice</u> <u>/consultation etc.</u> )	Is it open to sign-up as an elective? yes	Specific pre-conditions to sign-up as an elective: -	
Interlinkages: (prerequisites, parallel units)-				
Aims and Principles: This course explores the major role played by exemplary figures in contemporary society. We will discuss the ways heroes and heroines resemble and differ from stars, celebrities and instant celebrities. We will see how different types of exemplary figures are constructed, performed and consumed and the ways they shape notions of identity.				
Intended learning outcomes (professional and transitive competencies):				
Knowledge: basic literature on celebrity-studies				
Skills: review of scientific literature, media analysis, ethnographic methods				
Attitudes/attributes: critical thinking				
Autonomy and Responsibility: individual research, presentation				
Course content (topics and themes):				
1. Introduction. Why study exemplarity?				
2. From heroes to celebrities and instant celebrities				
3. Exemplarity and the socio-psychology behind. The personality cult				
4. Heroes and their social effect. The case of Afro-Americans and Romani people				
5. Feminist approach to the cult of exemplary figures				
6. The Dimensions of Celebrity Culture: ritual and emotional dimensions				
7. The Dimensions of Celebrity Culture: artistic and social dimension				
8. The Dimensions of Celebrity Culture: mythological dimension. Hero motives in celebrity legendry				
9. Religion and Exemplarity Culture				
10. The unheroic heroes, everyday heroes, influencers				
Specificity of the learning process:				

Teaching method: Interactive methods, theoretical readings will be supplemented with empirical studies, media analysis, and documentary films.

Schedule:

Tasks and assignments (with student notional workload): oral presentation and seminary paper

Learning environment: (e.g. classroom / workshop / external spot / online platform / apprenticeship etc.)

Assessment:

Assignments: active participation during the course, individual presentation, seminary paper

Assessment method: (e.g. test / paper / oral exam / presentation / public demonstration etc.)

Assessment criteria: Discussion section (20%); prepare one presentation of case study dealing with a certain aspect of exemplarity (30%); final paper (50%).

Calculation of grade: (weights of the achievements, assignments; ranges of rates or points)  
Discussion section (20%); prepare one presentation of case study dealing with a certain aspect of exemplarity (30%); final paper (50%).

Recommended readings:

David P. Marshall (ed.), *The Celebrity Culture Reader*, New York, Routledge, 2006.

Chris Rojek, *Celebrities*, London, Reaktion, 2001.

David P. Marshall, Sean Redmond (eds.), *A Companion to Celebrity*, Wiley, Blackwell, 2016.

Peter Jan Margry (ed.), *Shrines and Pilgrimage in the Modern World: New Itineraries to the Sacred*, Amsterdam University Press, 2008.

István Povedák, *Heroes and celebrities in Central- and Eastern Europe*, MTA-SZTE, Szeged, 2014.

Further readings, documents, sources:

Additional information:

Prior learning recognition (based on application):

– *recognition is not applicable*

Schedule and venue for personal consultation:

Wednesday 13.00 – prior notification is required