

**J. Selye University**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**

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**Dr. habil Tóthné Litovkina Anna, PhD.**

**Phraseology  
Seminar**

**Code:** FRAZ

**Academic year:** 2022/2023

**Year:** 5.

**Assessment:** seminar work, presentation, written exam (or in case of online classes and exams, oral exam)

**Syllabus**

**Course description and its aims**

The main goals of the course are to provide students with theoretical background of English phraseology and paremiology (study of proverbs), and to extend students knowledge of frequently used proverbs, sayings, idioms and collocations. We will learn what these proverbs mean, when and where they are used, and how to apply them to a concrete situation. We will explore some proverbial markers. The course also focuses on proverb humor. The course has also been designed to study American thought, life, and philosophy through proverbs. Topics: Phraseology, phraseography, paremiology, paremiography, lexicography, and lexicology; Historical overview; The etymology of phraseology; Basic types of phraseological units; Collocations and idioms; Phraseology and paremiology in the language classroom; Proverbial markers; The role of proverbs in the modern American and British societies; Proverbs in advertisements, comics and cartoons; Proverbs in songs and poems; Proverbs in graffiti and wellerisms; Proverb parodies.

By the end of this course, the students will be able to review and critique relevant research and literature, formulate a number of basic theoretical concepts, and will be familiar with the best well-known proverbs, sayings, idioms and collocations and will be able to show their ability to use them.

**Divided into 13 weeks:**

1. Introduction. Phraseology, phraseography, paremiology, paremiography, lexicography, and lexicology; Proverbs, collocations and idioms; What constitutes a real American or British proverb? The role of proverbs in the modern American and British societies.
2. Synonymy and antonymy. Proverbial markers (e.g., traditionality, metaphor, paradox, ellipsis, word-repetition, rhyme, alliteration, pithiness, certain structures).
3. Paremiological minimum and cultural literacy. Dictionaries. Biblical proverbs
4. Old proverbs never die: they just diversify: Anglo-American proverb transformations. Politicians and lawyers in Anglo-American proverbs, anti-proverbs and jokes
5. Phraseology and paremiology in the language classroom; Proverbs and tales
6. Proverbs in songs and poems, advertisements, comics and cartoons, graffiti, wellerisms and Tom Swifities.
7. HOLIDAY

8. Anglo-American proverbs and anti-proverbs about love, sexuality, women, men and marriage
9. Proverbs about time, procrastination, patience, haste, and money
10. Proverbs about optimism, success, hope, pessimism and misfortune; opportunity
11. Students' presentations
12. Students' presentations
13. Students' presentations

### Compulsory reading

- T. Litovkina, Anna (2000). *A Proverb a Day Keeps Boredom Away*. Szekszárd–Pécs: IPF–Könyvek.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2004a). *Once upon a Proverb: Old and New Tales Shaped by Proverbs*. Szekszárd: privately published.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2017). *Teaching Proverbs and Anti-Proverbs*. Komarnó: J. Selye University Faculty of Education. (excerpts)

### Supplementary reading (excerpts)

- Fiedler, Sabine (2015) Proverbs and Foreign Language Teaching: In: Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt & Melita Aleksa Varga (eds.), *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Warsaw: De Gruyter Open, 294-325.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2004b). Old Proverbs Never Die: Anti-Proverbs in the Language Classroom. In: Csaba Földes (ed.), *Res humanae proverbium et sententiarum: Ad honorem Wolfgangi Mieder*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 295–326.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2015). Anti-proverbs. In: Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt & Melita Aleksa Varga (eds.), *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Warsaw: De Gruyter Open, 326–352.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2016). “Do You Serve Lawyers and Politicians Here?”: *Stereotyped Lawyers and Politicians in Anglo-American Jokes and Anti-Proverbs*, Komarnó: J. Selye University Faculty of Education.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2017). “Make love, not war...Get married and do both”: Negative Aspects of Marriage in Anti-Proverbs and Wellerisms. *The European Journal of Humour Research* 5(4), 112-135.
- T. Litovkina, Anna (2018). *Women through Anti-Proverbs*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 211 pp.
- T. Litovkina, Anna & Wolfgang Mieder (2005). “A közmondást nem hiába mondják”. *Vizsgálatok a proverbiumok természetéről és használatáról*. Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó.
- T. Litovkina, A., & Mieder, W. (2006). *Old Proverbs Never Die, They Just Diversify: A Collection of Anti-Proverbs*. Burlington: The University of Vermont – Veszprém: The Pannonian University of Veszprém.
- Mieder, Wolfgang (1989). *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts*. Bern: Peter Lang.

### Supplementary online materials

Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt & Melita Aleksa Varga (2015) (eds.), *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Warsaw: De Gruyter Open.  
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.2478/9783110410167/html?lang=en>

### Assessment

Course grade will be based on the following work (percentages are approximate):

1. Presentation 30%
2. Final written (or oral) exam 50%
3. Classroom participation 20%

The exam will mainly concentrate on the knowledge of 300 well-known Anglo-American proverbs and ability to use them.

**Attendance**

Students will be permitted two unexplained absences. Students must arrive on time to be counted as in attendance. It is your responsibility to stay current and find out what you missed if you were absent.

**Grading Scale**

- 0-49% (Fx)
- 50-59% (E)
- 60-69% (D)
- 70-79% (C)
- 80-89% (B)
- 90-100% (A)