ABSTRACT

of the working program of the discipline

«Britain: Cultural Roots of Status Quo»

1. The course is taught to students of MA program “Literature in Cross-Cultural Perspective” during the 3d semester of the 2nd year of studies.

2. This is an elective course

Labor intensity of the discipline: 5 credits (24 lectures, 36 seminars).

Form of assessment: exam.

3. The place of the discipline in the structure of the educational program: Б.1. B. ДВ.05.2

This course provides the base of knowledge that the following courses subsequently build upon knowledge, skills and abilities formed by previous disciplines of MA program: "Contemporary Literary Process", "Russian and European Cultural Bonds", “Genre system in the European novel”.

4. The purpose of the discipline is to record and help to codify (and potentially improve through the delivery of information) the existing awareness of historal and institutional roots of contemporary British culture; to spread good practice and knowledge of available secondary (support) materials and resources, and particularly to create a source of information for students concerned with the development of complex interdisciplinary analytical approaches to fiction.

5. Requirements for the results of mastering the discipline.

The discipline is aimed at formation of the following competences:

The ability to independently acquire, including through information technology and use in practice new knowledge and skills, including in new areas of knowledge that are not directly related to the field of activity (OK-4)

The ability to demonstrate in-depth knowledge in a selected specific field of Philology (ОПК-4)

Knowledge of the skills of planning, organizing and implementing educational activities for certain types of training sessions (laboratory, practical and seminar classes) in philological disciplines (modules) in educational organizations of higher education (ПК-8)

As a result of studying the discipline, students should:

Know: how the contemporary relates to previous periods (from ancient to Victorian, modernism, between the wars and post-war); and reflect on the themes and contexts seen as appropriate to the contemporary fiction; how the concept of the contemporary can approached through British institutions;

Be able: to reflect on current social and cultural practices in what is an important from historical point of view; To produce a map of the current selection of authors, critical materials in order to reconsider a “canonicity”;

Apply: an overview of available critical interpretive materials and sources in individual research projects; and

apply data collected to improve the teaching of contemporary fiction.

6. Course contents:

MODULE 1. The Island. Historical Overview. Nation/nationality

MODULE 2. The Reformation. Role of Education.

MODULE 3. Institutions of Government. Role of the Constitution. Political and cultural debates. Topical issues of contemporary literature: politics, class, subcultures, feminism, gender and sexual politics, diasporas, postcolonial identities, national heritage, globalization.

7. Basic educational technologies: group discussions and some plenary lectures, case studies, reviews of academic sources, presentations.

Assessment methods: testing, essay, project assignment. Final project could be a written paper (15 pages) addressing any of the themes discussed in the class or a creative project addressing the topical issues from historical and institutional points of view. It is required to address at least one and preferably two areas of study in the project.