



DEGREE IN ENGLISH STUDIES. SUBJECT CONTENTS.

Elective subjects

Discourse and Text in English. This course examines English discourse and text from socio-cognitive, functional paradigms. The approach used combines theory and practice, and aims to provide an introduction to the analysis and production of English with attention to issues such as register and genre, cohesion and coherence, topicality and thematic structure, and conversation analysis.

Semantics and Pragmatics. This subject covers advanced concepts and theoretical models in the areas of semantics and pragmatics applied to the English language. Students are expected to be able to discuss theoretical aspects of the models and apply them in the analysis of English texts.

Introduction to Semiotics and Multimodality in English. Introduction to key concepts in semiotics and to the study of multimodality through the analysis of multimodal genres and texts.

English Language and Ideology. This course focuses on the study of the connections between language and ideology from a critical perspective. The presentation of key concepts in critical discourse analysis is combined with the textual analysis of different types of spoken and written discourse, such as media discourse political discourse, or conversational exchanges, with a focus on how ideologies and identities are projected and constructed.

Methodology in English Language Teaching. This course examines current issues in the theory and practice of English Language Teaching (ELT). It provides a comprehensive introduction to the specific approaches, methods, procedures, and techniques used in the teaching and learning of EFL/ESL (English as a Foreign Language/English as a Second Language) and focuses on newer trends. Amongst the newer topics in ELT we will cover: CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) or ELF (English as a Lingua Franca) and digital supplementary materials and resources. In addition, students will be exposed to different types of skills for teaching and learning (listening, vocabulary, speaking (interaction), reading and writing) and will be able to design lesson plans for specific levels and learner needs. The course will also display general notions of classroom management and evaluation methods.

English for Specific Purposes. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the knowledge and use of English for Specific Purposes in a broad variety of fields such as business and the economy, institutional settings, the media, international law, new technologies, and the social sciences. The approach will combine practice and theory, with a focus both on specific lexical features of the language and on key theoretical aspects of ESP.

Information and Communication Technologies Applied to the English Language. This course provides an introduction to the application of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) to the theoretical and applied study of the English language. The aim is to familiarize students with the use of online and digital resources used in three main areas: linguistic research (online grammars and dictionaries, lexical and semantic databases, corpora); English language teaching (online materials, concordances, webquests); and translation (machine translation).

Psycholinguistics: English Language Acquisition and Learning. In this course students will become familiar with the principles of Psycholinguistics and the Psychology of language and its key concepts and topics. Students will be exposed to the current theory and research relevant for a linguist. Students will obtain an accessible overview of the areas covered by the psychology of language and psycholinguistics relevant in current Cognitive linguistics and English language learning environments.

During the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic tenets of Psycholinguistics and the Psychology of Language.
- Establish theoretical and practical links between studies in the Psychology of Language and Linguistics.
- Evaluate the relevance of Language Acquisition and Learning Theories to issues of Language instruction and teaching.

Research Methodology in English Linguistics. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the main principles and methods in qualitative and quantitative approaches to linguistic research. The course will combine theory and practice, so that students can apply the knowledge acquired to specific research studies.

Translation and English-Spanish Contrastive Linguistics. The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to contrastive English-Spanish studies, with attention to the different levels at which contrastive analysis may operate: phonological, lexicogrammatical, morphosyntactic, pragmatic, and textual. The theoretical concepts presented will be applied to the practice of translation.

Computational and Corpus Linguistics in English. This course is designed to increase awareness of computational and corpus tools and their applications for linguistic research. It provides ways to learn about various tools to at least partially automate or accelerate linguistic analysis, providing students with a greater understanding of how and when to use empirical approaches to linguistic analysis. A large emphasis of the course is in how to deal with large amounts of language data and to understand practical issues in dealing with corpora, annotation and multi-lingual data. It covers computer methods for doing linguistics with on-line corpora. Includes extensive introduction (with lab) to the Python programming language, UNIX corpus tools, concordance programs, syntactic treebanks, propbanks, and corpora for lexicogrammatical, pragmatic and discourse research.

Varieties of English. Theoretical and practical concepts associated to the study and analysis of varieties of the English language in the world.

Origins and Consolidation of the English Language. The course aims to provide students with a general overview of the evolution of the English language from its origins to the 15th century. Students will be able to recognize the main characteristics of Medieval English from syntactic, phonological, and lexical standpoints, with attention to the linguistic changes in this period and their connection to historical, social, and cultural issues.

English historical and cultural contexts. The aim of this course is to provide students with a general overview of the implications of the main historical events on the development of the English language from the Middle Ages to Modern times. Through a precise selection of topics and primary sources, the student will get familiar with different socio-cultural contexts affecting language change and progress. Throughout the course, the connection between English and social groups, the emergence of creolization processes, and the existence of bilingual and

multilingual situations will be described, as well as the use of English as a political and socio-economic instrument. Further issues, such as the role of education and literacy in the development of the language, and the links between language and religion and other ideological concerns will be reviewed. Concepts such as linguistic correction, prestige and superiority will be a core part of the course programme.

Gender Studies and their Literary Expression in English. We will question the male-dominated canon of literature and the exclusion of women writers from the history of literature in English-speaking countries until the advent of the feminist theory and criticism in the 1960s. We will introduce a broad spectrum of studies that form the body of scholarship known as "Feminist Theory". We will explore key questions about the origins of gender differences, the nature of patriarchy, and the intersections between gender, race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality and sexual orientation as categories of analysis and debate, ranging from male oppression to female empowerment. But more importantly, we will improve our skills in reading, critical thinking and applying theoretical approaches to literature. We will focus our study on novels, short-stories and poems from the late 19th century until today to discover unknown or lesser-known women writers, to revise the canon of the traditionally "male" literature, to explore controversial or taboo issues affecting women, and to applaud the courage and entrepreneurship of female authors when successfully articulating their own voices or fighting for women's rights against misogynist ideologies and institutions.

Contemporary Literary Criticism in English. This course introduces students to the main theoretical and practical issues in the field of literary criticism. The aim is to guide students in the process of understanding literary theory and schools of criticism by providing an overview of the different approaches and principles which allow critics to focus on particular aspects of a work which they consider important.

Enlightenment in Anglo-American Cultural History. This course presents the main thought currents in 18th c. Britain and the United States of America, which were strongly influenced by the great French thinkers and their ideas. In Britain, the focus is on the Age of Reason in an unstable socio-economic context, with flourishing cities, a growing middle class, and a thirst for refinement and for reading novels. In the United States, Enlightenment coexists with individualism and a search for space. The course includes the study of outstanding figures of the period in the Anglo-American world. Students will be involved in essay writing and critical thinking on the relevance of these ideas.

Poetry and Poetics of Romanticism. This course introduces the students in the Romantic revolution of the British poetry, presenting a general overview of the main authors, periods and texts. It also tries to compare the English literary tradition with that of other European countries.

Cinema and literature in English Language. A survey of issues in film theory and history offers the possibility to study relationships between literary and film narratives in relevant texts. By exploring the cultural context that governed the emergence of film as a form of art and mass culture, the course examines the different practical, sociological and aesthetic forces surrounding text and image working together to amplify or alter meaning. The different approaches to narrative filming are analyzed through time, space and focalization. Stress on the various ways to interpret adaptations in terms of inter-textual processes of content and materials will enhance the study of literary writing and multi-media forms of expression.

Shakespeare: A Critical Reading. The subject consists of a monographic study of Shakespeare's work: tragedies, comedies, historical works, long poems and

sonnets to deepen the study of the Shakespearean canon and to acquire the widest possible knowledge of chronology, dramaturgy, verse, genres and characterization of Stratford's genius.

North American ethnic literature. This course focuses on the literature and culture of the diverse minority groups of the United States. Works of fiction, poetry and drama of the different ethnicities that populate and live in North America will be discussed and analyzed in class. The writings of Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans or Asians are already part of the new canon of American literature. Other artistic manifestations by these minorities (music, films, comics, etc) constitute a remarkable component of the cultural history of the U.S. This course incorporates discussion not only on the literary tradition but also on the historical background, society, culture and art of major American ethnicities that have contributed to the transformation of the United States throughout the centuries.

North American poetry since 1950. This course reconsiders fundamental concepts and categories of poetic creativity, such as author, text, and poetic meaning. It also analyzes recent significant movements of poetry and poetics in the USA, and explores the links of such movements to the American literary legacy. The course aims to develop the students' capacity for critical reading of poems, and to stimulate discussions about the creative process of writing poetry in contemporary America.

British poetry since 1950. The course teaches the poetic movements and leading poets that emerged in Great Britain from the end of the Second World War to the present, showing their relationship with modernism and with the British poetic tradition in general. Also the connections of this period's poetry with other cultural manifestations will be explored, inserted in the same context: postmodernism.

Contemporary fiction in the United States. In this course we will study the fiction of the United States from WWII to the present. Systematizing this period is not easy, both because it is still, in a way, happening, and also due to the huge variety in authors, approaches and genres in the last decades. We will pay special attention to the connection between contemporary United States society (and its aesthetic, symbolic, cultural and moral values) and literary production. We will therefore combine a study of the works in their historical, political and ideological context and in relation to what has been called "the age of theory". We will also pay attention to how "theory" as the domineering critical and academic discourse and the publishing industry have affected the creation and reception of works of fiction.

Contemporary fiction in the United Kingdom. The course deals with the study and analysis of British Fiction from WWII to the present. The object of study is, naturally, ongoing, and, thus, different approaches and revisions of the canon must be looked into in order to provide a sound study of the fiction written in Britain from the 1940s up to now. The course combines a study of the novels and short stories from an ideological point of view, and points out to the relationship between fiction and the historical, social-economical, artistic, philosophical and political context of the United Kingdom in the contemporary era. The core theoretical framework of the course deals with the notion of post-modernism in the United Kingdom and how it has affected the creation and the reception of fiction in the present-day context.

Victorian culture and the novel. This course constitutes an approach of the Victorian culture through the novel, arguably, the most popular genre of the period. The course analyzes the various ways in which the rise of middle-class commodified bourgeoisie affects fiction and the novel, and, conversely, the different ways in which the novel affects middle-class culture throughout the century. The course

studies the great English canon that constitutes the "Great Tradition" (The Brontës, Charles Dickens, William M. Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, George Eliot and Thomas Hardy) as well as alternative fictions such as Avant-Garde approaches to the novel (Aestheticism, Decadentism) and genre, popular fiction (Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, Arthur Conan Doyle). The course performs an ideological approach to the novels and considers different cultural issues of Victorian society such as evolutionism, the woman question, the Empire, and several other issues and anxieties.

20th Century Drama in English. The aim of this course is to introduce students to 20th century drama in English, combining a study of relevant productions and authors in the United Kingdom and the United States with an analysis of the connections between drama and its historical, ideological, and socio-economic contexts.

External Traineeships. In this module students are required to engage in some professional activity connected to the areas covered by the Degree in English Studies, in a company or institution, for an average 75 h. distributed across three consecutive months between October and August. The aim is to provide familiarity with actual working contexts, to develop awareness of the different professional capabilities that the degree prepares students for, and to foster the improvement of the student's proficiency in English, social skills, and professional development. The evaluation will be based on the company's report and on a report or interview with the student by the university.
