

Reading addicts unite! 2021/2022

- Level: **C1+**
- Duration: 30 hours/semester. Full course 60 hours.
- Requirements: If an examination in English is needed as part of the post-graduate studies programme (studia II stopnia), 60 hours of the course must be completed. If an examination is not needed, one or two semesters may be completed.
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Course description:

This course is designed for all the books and reading lovers out there, who have completed a regular university English course at C1 level.

The aim of the course is to activate and advance all language skills with a particular emphasis on reading, speaking and writing. Trigger warning! You will often be required to read something new for every single class 😊 when a selected short story, or a book, becomes a springboard for developing your discussion and listening skills. Additional authentic, up-to-date and inspiring materials such as film excerpts, video clips, TED talks, online lectures will be used to further your progress. The course includes elements of writing, both in and out of class, and provides plenty of grammar and vocabulary practice in how to express ideas in an orderly and elegant manner.

Course objectives

The course aims to:

1. develop general reading comprehension
2. strengthen a habit of reading for pleasure
3. enhance listening and speaking/discussion skills
4. develop writing skills across a variety of genres (i.e. creative writing, op-eds, reviews, reflective essays, summaries)
5. increase vocabulary and grammar skills
6. raise students' literary and cultural awareness
7. involve students in creating the content of the course and in active participation in class activities

Learning outcomes

Having completed the course, students can:

1. engage in leisure reading in English, in and out of class
2. undertake the task of reading authentic, unabridged English texts e.g. classic and contemporary short stories or excerpts from non-fiction books
3. read actively and critically in order to express opinions and participate in discussions
4. demonstrate the ability to analyse, interpret and identify the dramatic structure of a story (e.g. the climax, the dénouement, the foreshadowing)
5. express themselves creatively and concisely while speaking and in writing

Course topics

Topics may vary from year to year depending on students' choice of texts and issues, which are incorporated in the course. Different aspects of the following topics will be discussed.

1. Love, loss and trauma
2. Family relationships
3. Women's issues
4. Gender issues
5. War and crime
6. Horror/the Gothic
7. The Southern Gothic
8. Urban myths
9. Nostalgia

10. Otherness
11. Dystopia
12. Moral dilemmas

Grammar & Lexis

Grammar dynamic syllabus is used. An attempt will be made to eliminate students' recurrent grammatical mistakes, if any, as well as to revise or introduce relevant grammar features. The following grammar and lexical items may be included depending on students' needs.

1. Narrative tenses (Past Simple/Past Continuous/Past Perfect Simple/Past Perfect Continuous)
2. Other grammar tenses, if need be
3. Uses of *used to/would* for past experiences.
4. Reporting verbs (*The author claims..., The writer suggests...*)
5. Conditional structures in future, present and past (*If they hadn't told me, I ..., I wouldn't believe it, if I were you.*)
6. *I wish / If only* for regrets and hypothetical meanings.
7. Modal verbs of speculation and deduction (*It can't have been..., That may be true...*)
8. Relative structures (*which, who, of whom; He is a writer that ..., She put forward a point which....* etc.)
9. Linking expressions (*on the other hand..., so as not to..., despite..., even so...*)
10. Adverbs / attitude adverbs (e.g.: *hopefully, unfortunately, sadly*)
11. Chosen elements of more formal register (e.g. passive structures: *It is believed..., They are thought to ...;* nominalization: *to reduce-reduction, relevant – relevance;* inversion and negative adverbials: *Not only have we read it but also, Little did I know., Under no circumstances ...*)
12. Collocations (*prolific writer, worthy of consideration*)
13. Idioms (*to make a clean breast of ..., elbow grease*)

Functions

1. Paraphrasing and summarizing
2. Skimming, scanning, interpreting texts
3. Re-reading as appropriate; guessing meanings from context
4. Reading selectively according to goals
5. Integrating ideas across the text
6. Expressing strong and tentative agreement and disagreement
7. Voicing an opinion
8. Using the text to support an opinion
9. Conceding a point, asking for clarification
10. Expanding and exemplifying
11. Supporting arguments with examples
12. Expressing probability and certainty
13. Reporting what others say
14. Responding in writing to the ideas in the text
15. Forming interpretations of the text
16. Building a cohesive text
17. Using punctuation in texts

Requirements and assessment

Students will be required to:

1. be prepared for each class (e.g. reading a short story, book or another type of text; reading and completing tasks connected with the text; preparing a mini-presentation; preparing a text for a class discussion; writing an essay, a summary or a review; doing some watching/listening in order to prepare for a discussion in class; completing grammar and/or vocabulary tasks)
2. participate actively, contribute ideas and reading suggestions
3. complete individual assignments in a semester (e.g. writing assignments, adapting a text for class discussion)
4. attend the class regularly (two absences per semester are allowed)

Students will be assessed on the basis of:

1. exit test at the end of the semester (reading, grammar/lexis, writing)
2. individual assignment(s)
(essays, text presentations etc.)

The final examination fulfils all the requirements for C1+ exam at MA level as specified on JCJ website:

<http://www.jcj.uj.edu.pl/studenci/egzamin-konczacy-lektorat/egzamin-studia-ii-stopnia>

Percentage scale of semester grade:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 0 – 59% | fail (ndst) |
| 60 – 67% | C (dst) |
| 68 – 75% | C+ (plus dst) |
| 76 – 83% | B (db) |
| 84 – 91% | B+ (plus db) |
| 92 – 100% | A (bdb) |

Resources

About 8 – 10 short stories/books per semester. The final selection will depend on the group's agreed choices.

Some examples of short stories from previous editions: *The Landlady*, Roald Dahl; *An Outpost of Progress*, J. Conrad; *The Black Cat* and *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, E.A. Poe; *Borden Family Murders*, A. Carter; *To Room Nineteen*, A Good Man Is Hard to Find, Flannery O'Connor, *Free Radicals*, Alice Munro; *The Door of Opportunity*, Somerset Maugham; *The Garden Party*, Kathleen Mansfield; *The Dead*, James Joyce.

Some examples of novels from previous editions: *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald; *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *The Remains of the Day* and *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro; *The Fifth Child* and *The Grass Is Singing*, Doris Lessing; *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments*, Margaret Atwood; *Brideshead Revisited*, Evelyn Waugh, *The Go-Between*, L.P. Hartley; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Muriel Spark, *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte; *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys; *The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett; *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, A. C. Doyle; *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, John Fowles; *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak; *Atonement*, Ian McEwan; *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen; *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison plus occasionally one or two good quality articles from e.g. www.newyorker.com, www.theguardian.com, www.nytimes.com, www.wired.com, www.telegraph.co.uk