

Read and Think Critically - Syllabus

Thematic course (C1+)

Basic information

1. Organisation unit

Jagiellońskie Centrum Językowe

2. Education level

Full-time second-cycle programme

3. Course profile

General academic

4. Course type

obligatory

5. Language of instruction

English

6. Education period

Academic year 2023/2024

7. Course coordinator

dr Agata Krzysica

8. Course teacher

dr Agata Krzysica

9. Examination

Pre-examination with grade (zaliczenie) after each semester.

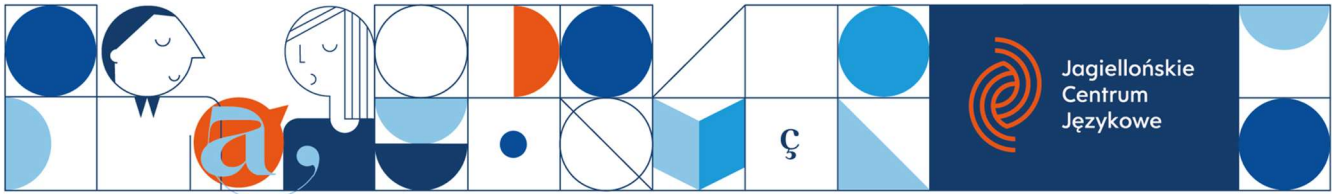
Written and spoken examination after 60 hours (two semesters)

10. Number of contact hours

60 hours, 30 hours per semester

11. ECTS points

4



Course objectives

1. To refine the ability to understand and analyse spoken and written academic texts
2. To refine expression and presentation skills (in speaking and writing)
3. To develop course-related vocabulary
4. To refine the ability to interact in speaking and writing
5. To refine linguistic mediation skills in spoken and written communication
6. To refine the ability to continue linguistic self-development
7. To develop extra-linguistic competences that enable the student to participate in academic and professional environments

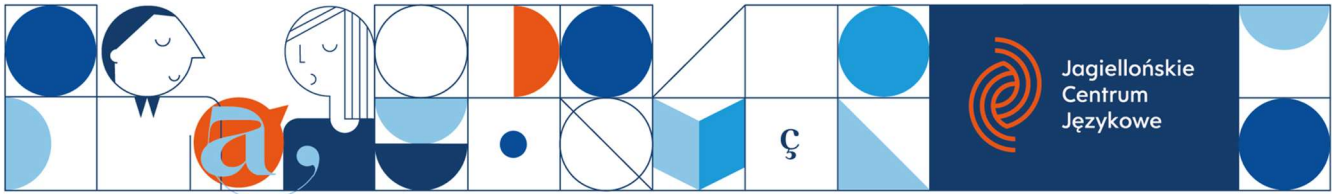
Learning outcomes

1. Knowledge

1. Student knows and understands academic and specialized vocabulary in the range that enables fluent use of the language in speech and writing
2. Student knows and understands different academic and specialized texts, in speech and writing
3. Student knows and understands the necessity of life-long learning and methods of linguistic self-development leading towards professional success
4. Student knows and understands the elements of academic language typical for his / her specialisation

2. Skills

1. Student can understand complex lectures and other utterances typical for academic and professional environments
2. Student can understand complex scientific and popular-science articles, as well as other written course-related texts
3. Student can present opinions on course-related topics, in spoken and written form, and support them with arguments
4. Student can summarise long and complex academic texts and lectures
5. Student can describe and interpret visual data in a graphic form
6. Student can write an academic or professional text
7. Student can present course-related topics in spoken utterances of various kinds, e.g. public speeches or formal and informal conversations, in language appropriate for the interlocutor
8. Student can engage in spoken and written interaction in typical professional contexts and in academic environments
9. Student can use linguistic mediation in spoken and written communication
10. Student can develop his / her linguistic competences



11. Student can prepare for the recruitment process

3. Social competences

1. Student is ready to successfully cooperate in a group, while accepting a variety of attitudes and opinions, and builds relations that promote respect for cultural diversity
2. Student is ready to participate in the academic, professional and social life, through sharing and popularising knowledge
3. Student is ready to continue his / her linguistic self-development
4. Student is ready to interpret and evaluate information and arguments, draw conclusions, identify positions, as well as present his / her own viewpoint in a coherent and comprehensible manner
5. Student is ready to participate in the recruitment process

ECTS credits

1. Contact hours (academic hour = 45 minutes)

30 hours per semester, 60 hours per course

2. Student's total individual workload

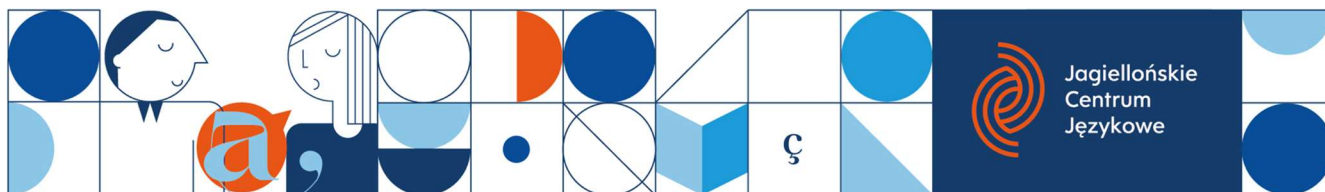
90 hours per course

Course description

The course is addressed to students who wish to practice their critical reading skills. It is based on a selection of up-to-date British and American press articles. Focus will be placed on the analysis of the organisation of arguments and reasoning, recognising irony and bias, and differentiating between facts and opinions. This will also help to improve critical thinking, analytical and synthetical skills useful in both academic and everyday contexts. Additionally, there will also be a chance to discuss the topics raised and to broaden the range of grammar structures and vocabulary (including collocations and fixed phrases). The course also aims to develop the students' cultural awareness and prepare them for work in an English-speaking background, including the ability to speak confidently in academic settings (seminars/conferences/workshops, classes, discussions) both as a presenter and member of the audience. Students will also learn to efficiently use their language skills to guess the meaning of unknown words from the context.

Course Content

Topics and vocabulary related to the following topic areas:



1. Reading, interpreting, analysing and synthesising both general interest and more specialized texts
2. Recognising and presenting facts, opinions and bias in the texts
3. Expressing opinion (or saying you cannot decide), debating
4. Agreeing, disagreeing, partially agreeing, conceding a point, asking for clarification
5. Expressing probability and certainty, cause and effect, comparison and contrast
6. Reporting what others say
7. Skimming, scanning, interpreting, evaluating the usefulness of the content
8. Paraphrasing and summarising
9. Taking notes efficiently
10. Analysis of selected course-related lectures and presentations
11. Analysis of selected course-related academic papers and popular-science articles
12. Creating academic and professional texts, e.g. a summary, a report, an opinion essay.
13. Preparing for the recruitment process (for employment, internship or grant)
14. (Optionally) selected grammar issues related to the course content

Additional information

1. Teaching methods

Text analysis, brainstorming, group discussion, case studies, solving problems, e-learning, debates.

2. Forms of obtaining ECTS

1st semester: a written test in topics covered during the semester (reading, vocabulary and grammar), mini-presentations, active participation in class discussions.

2nd semester: a written test in topics covered during the semester (reading, vocabulary and grammar), mini-presentations, active participation in class discussions.

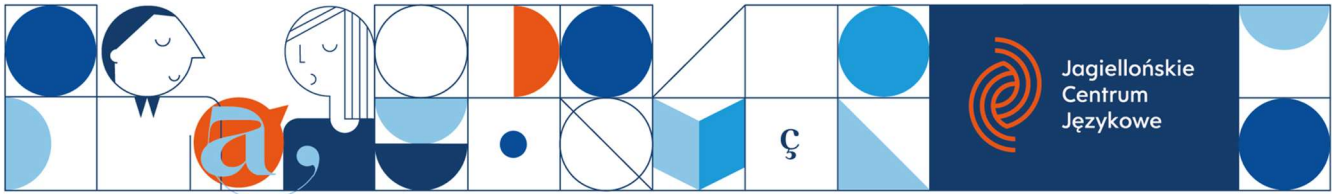
Final written and spoken examination after 2 semesters (60 hours) of the course (detailed information on the form of the examination are specified in the description available at <https://jcz.uj.edu.pl/egzaminy/egzamin-konczacy-lektorat>)

3. Conditions of obtaining ECTS

Completing all tests as well as written and spoken assignments with a score of at least 60% of the maximum number of points per semester.

Regular attendance. Without the appropriate justification, the student may miss no more than two 90-minute classes per semester if the course covers 30 hours per semester.

Passing the final written examination with a score of at least 60% of the maximum number of points. Passing the spoken examination.



4. Entry requirements

It is assumed that the Participants entering this course already know the lexis and grammar issues at C1 level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, as well as possess the appropriate skills to communicate successfully in speech and writing in everyday situations and the academic context at C1 level.

Resources

1. Obligatory literature:

Authentic materials in English, adapted for course purposes

2. Additional materials:

Magazines: The Guardian, The Spectator, The Times, Time, The Independent, New York Times, Newsweek and others.

Podcasts and programmes from CNN, BBC, YouTube, Ted, etc.

Academic skills textbooks and platforms:

Cox, K. and Hill D., EAP Now! English for Academic Purposes. Pearson Longman, 2004.

Paterson K., Wedge R., Oxford Grammar for EAP. English Grammar and Practice for Academic Purposes, OUP, Oxford 2013.

www.uefap.com.