

The Comprehension and Production of Analytical and Creative Texts in English

Johnny Skilling (Instructor)

Email: skilling@ucu.edu.ua

General information

Students are welcome to get in contact either through email or by speaking to me after class. I will endeavour to reply to all written queries within 48 hours or less. Please feel free to chat to me about topics relating or not relating to the course.

Scheduled classes:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30-9:50

Thurs: 8:30-9:50

Content & Course description

As a student refines his/her English language abilities, the ability to engage with and respond to academic essays and texts becomes increasingly relevant. Speaking, in my view, should be the foundation of anyone's language learning journey. However, at an advanced level, it is crucial to master the skills of reading and writing in order to be able to fully engage with the English-speaking world as well as to consolidate linguistic knowledge garnered through listening.

Each week we will focus on:

- a) an article of analytical and/or journalistic nature

OR

- b) an extract from a book or longer text that uses a more creative language

In each lesson students will take in turns to summarise an aspect of the set text and subsequently lead a discussion of the themes/ideas raised by the author. Complex and nuanced passages of the text will have been highlighted and students should be ready to explain what they mean. Course materials will be posted on Moodle and (perhaps) printed out and given to students in class. Homework will consist of reading next week's text and writing a short summary or essay in response.

Course goals

The main objective of this course for students to develop their reading and writing skills to the point where they can understand and actively engage with advanced texts written by and for people of the English-speaking world. In doing this, they should also gain:

- Cultural knowledge.
- An understanding of various literary techniques including idiomatic expressions, metaphor, etc.
- The ability to write short essays and summaries of texts with little or no errors about an array of different subjects (with a focus on each student's speciality).

Methodology

The main focus of this course is the development of reading and writing skills at an advanced level, but attention will also be given to speaking and correct pronunciation during lessons. Discussions of the text will be led by students and the instructor will endeavour to answer any questions that arise during this process.

Course Completion Requirements and Grading Principles

In order to successfully complete the course students are expected to apply themselves. Those who progress significantly should expect to be rewarded in equal measure. If instructions regarding an assignment are not clear, students should not hesitate to ask the instructor for further explanation.

Grade Evaluation:

Module 1:

Written Assignments 20%

Participation 10%

Module 2:

Written Assignments 20%

Participation 10%

Final Exam 40%

Total: 100%

Grading Scale:

A (94-100%); A- (90-93%); B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B- (80-82%); C+ (77-79%) C (73-76%); C- (70-72%); D+ (67-69%); D (63-66%); D- (60-62%); F (59% and below)

Class policy

Students are expected at this level of their education to attend class without prompting. Reasons for absence will be inspected on an adhoc basis. The use of mobile phones during lessons is prohibited. If a student does not understand a particular word then they are strongly encouraged to ask the instructor and this will likely be a welcome and useful digression. Plagiarism is an offence that will be taken very seriously. Anyone found to be copying/referencing another author or academic's work without acknowledging its origins will be penalised.