

Programa | *Course Description 2022/2023*

Course Unit

English C1.1 - TP7

Course ID

11985

ECTS Credits

6

Level

BA

Semester

S1

Instructor

Rui Vitorino Azevedo

Language of instruction

English

Course description

This course will focus on reading and discussing several contemporary American literary texts from different genres. There will be a particular emphasis on examining the formation of identity and in so doing we will discuss the concepts of race, class, gender and sexuality. Although we will focus mostly on examining short stories, there will also be two novels that will be used for two writing projects. The first will be a creative writing assignment where you will be asked to write a short story based on specific guidelines provided by me and the other is an academic essay. In addition to these readings, we will also look at different articles/topics which will always serve as a basis for class debate meaning that it is expected that everyone participate actively in class discussion. Given that this is an advanced language class some specific language aspects need to be covered. The aim here is to perfect any language areas that may still prove to be problematic. Finally, you will be asked to give a 15-minute presentation based on a topic chosen by the instructor.

Grading and Assessment

Grades are determined primarily by student performance on two written tests (one on grammar and the other on the short stories), a creative writing project, an essay and one oral presentation.

I will also give several written/homework assignments that will serve as extra practice for you to improve and develop your writing skills. However, these assignments are optional as they will not be graded. For borderline grades, your active participation in class

discussion and attendance will also count. As you are aware, attendance is mandatory so if you cannot come to class, you must contact me beforehand.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments must be handed in on time. Otherwise, there will be a one-point deduction for every day that they are late. After five days late, you will be given a zero.

GRADE PERCENTAGES

Grammar test (Test #1): 12.5%

Short story test (Test #2): 12.5%

Oral presentation: 25%

Creative writing: 25%

Essay: 25%

Readings (selection)

Butler, Octavia, E. *Kindred*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1979.

Jackson, Shirley. *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.

Lester, Mark. *Practice Makes Perfect: Advanced English Grammar for ESL Learners*, 2nd ed., McGraw-Hill Education, 2017.

Ward, Jesmyn. *Best American Short Stories 2021*. HarperCollins Publishers LLC, 2021.

Wilson, Wendy, and James Barlow. *Advanced English Grammar: The Superior English Grammar Guide Packed with Easy to Understand Examples, Practice Exercises and Brain Challenges*. Independently published, 2021.

Prerequisites

Students must have successfully concluded level B2.2 or be placed into the C1.1 level when they take the Placement Test.