

ENGLISH SEMINAR B COURSE PROGRAMME: 2008-2009

Course Code: 22107
Credits: 6 UAB / 4.5 ECTS

Type / Duration: Ob – 2 semesters
Class Time: 2 hours per week:
Groups 1 / 3 Tuesdays 13:30-15:30
Groups 2 / 4 Thursdays 13:30-15:30

Instructors:

Groups 1 / 3
Karen Metcalfe

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Tel.: 93-581-3364
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Office Hours: 1st and 2nd Semester
Wednesdays 11:00-13:00

Office: K1006
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E-mail: Berni.Armstrong@uab.es
Office Hours: 1st and 2nd Semester
Tuesdays / Thursdays 10:30-11:30

Groups 2 / 4
Geoff Belligoi

Office: K1005
Tel.: 93-581-3363
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Office Hours: 1st Semester
Tuesdays 15:30-16:30
Thursdays 13:30-14:30

2nd Semester
Tuesdays 13:30-14:30
Thursdays 11:30-12:30

Roland Pearson

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Office Hours: 1st Semester
Thursdays 11:00-13:00

2nd Semester
Tuesdays 11:00-13:00
(or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Developing formal foreign language skills alone is not enough for translators and interpreters. To successfully negotiate many extra-linguistic references in a wide range of discourse they must also have background knowledge of the corresponding culture and society. This B language seminar provides a background to a number of US and UK cultural and institutional features combined with reading comprehension activities that reference these extra-linguistic phenomena. The course objectives break down into two main areas:

1. Introduce students to some basic aspects of US and UK history, geography; institutions and demographics.
2. Reinforce English language skills through related texts: listening and reading comprehension activities using a range of media (video, radio, written texts from books, newspapers and magazine, etc.), and communication skills through group discussions / in-class presentations.

COURSE CONTENT

This B language seminar is a one-year course comprising two one-semester modules: US and UK. Throughout the first semester, groups 1 and 2 will study the US module and groups 3 and 4 the UK module. Throughout the second semester, groups 3 and 4 will study the US module and groups 1 and 2 the UK module. See individual US or UK instructors for details of topics covered in each module.

MATERIALS

Dossiers for the topics covered in each module will be available at the photocopy services and/or Virtual Campus. Any special needs students should contact their instructor at the beginning of each module / semester regarding access to any non-digital format materials that may be used in class (transparencies used in class, photo-copied exercises, etc.) so that they can be converted into the appropriate format.

ASSESSMENT

The final grade is based on the average from 1) Continual Assessment (40%) and 2) A comprehensive Final Exam (60%). This division breaks down equally across the two modules (i.e. 20% + 30% for each module).

- 1) **Continual Assessment** - Up to 6 assignments / quizzes will be given for each module with specific deadlines (for assignments) or dates (for in-class quizzes). Students who miss or are unable to attend classes are responsible for handing in class assignments on time or, in the case of in-class quizzes, making prior alternative arrangements with their instructor. Assignments will not be accepted after the specified deadline and any case of plagiarism will result in a zero grade.
- 2) **Final Exam** - The final exam for each module (UK and US) comprises two equally weighted sections: a) general knowledge questions based on the course materials provided and b) a reading comprehension taken from a contemporary text related to one of the module dossiers. The final exams will be given in class on the following dates: 1st semester – January 23rd (US module) and January 25th (UK module); 2nd semester – June 12th (UK module) and June 14th US module). Please note that if you are evaluated by course work / final exam, you cannot take the final exam only option (see below for details).

Repeating students who have previously passed the course work can present their graded work from that course for consideration as a substitution for the required continuous assessment component.

Important

If you know that you will not be able to comply with the standard course work / final exam requirement, and you wish to be evaluated on the final exam only, you must communicate this fact to your instructor **in writing** before October 31, 2008. The final exam date for this option is **[to be announced]**, please note that students who choose this option must:

1. Inform their instructors **in writing** within the aforementioned time limit (see first page for contact details).
2. Pass **both** sections of the comprehensive uk and us module final exam with a minimum 60% average for each to obtain the minimum pass grade.

Repeating students who have not done the course work must pass **both** uk and us modules final exams with a minimum of 60% average in each exam to pass.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Course Assignments:	UK module	20%
	US module	20%
Final Exam:	UK module	
	A. General knowledge questions	15%
	B. Reading Comprehension	15%
	US module	
	A. General knowledge questions	15%
	B. Reading Comprehension	15%
	TOTAL	100%