

SUBJECT: ESTUDIS CULTURALS ANGLESES: The Role of Humour in Culture

Code: 28451

Credits: 6

Semester: 2

Groups: 1

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Tutoria integrada: Virtual

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

“Estudis Culturals Anglesos: The Role of Humour in Culture” aims at inviting students to analyse in depth the importance of humour in the expression of the culture of the English-speaking world, comparing recent British and American trends.

OBJECTIVES

“Estudis Culturals Anglesos: The Role of Humour in Culture” aims at teaching students to:

- consider the diverse theories developed around the definition of humour within the context of contemporary British and American culture
- comment in detail on a selection of humorous texts of different genres (novels, films, TV) from the 1980s onwards
- understand the evolution of humour in the last decades in Britain and the USA
- develop basic skills in cultural criticism regarding humour by taking part in class discussion and writing critical essays

SYLLABUS

This subject is divided into three units:

UNIT 1: Humour on the printed page

UNIT 2: Humour on the film screen

UNIT 3: Humour on TV

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Criteria

There is no final exam. The final mark for this subject is based on:

Class participation: 30%

Writing of three critical reviews: 70%

Assessment Description

- Class participation: Students are expected to contribute to class discussion of the texts (both the plays and the films).
- Students are expected to write three critical reviews, one per genre, applying the methodology used in class and using at least three secondary sources in each (maximum 1000 words)

TUTORIALS

Virtual. Weekly tutorials will be posted to the subject's virtual classroom on the UAB's Virtual Campus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

Compulsory reading and viewing (other material may be used additionally in class):

UNIT 1: Humour on the printed page

UK Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett, *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch*. London: Corgi, 1991.

USA Jonathan Lethem, *Motherless Brooklyn*. London: Faber and Faber, 2004.

UNIT 2: Humour on the film screen

UK Guy Ritchie, *Snatch* (2000)

USA Ben Stiller, *Zoolander* (2001)

UNIT 3: Humour on TV

UK Selected episodes from Richard Curtis, Ben Elton and Rowan Atkinson, *Blackadder*

USA Selected episodes from James Burrows, Glen Charles, Les Charles, *Cheers*

- Photocopied booklet with selected academic criticism (10 articles)

OTHER COMMENTS

Students are required to read the texts and see the corresponding films or episodes from TV series independently (rent, buy or share them) outside classroom hours. Students who do not have access to video or DVD equipment and to the films ARE NOT encouraged to register.

