Creative Writing

Máster Universitario en Enseñanza del Inglés como Lengua Extranjera
Universidad de Alcalá
Curso Académico 2021/22
2º cuatrimestre
1. MODULE DESCRIPTION

This course stems from the belief that creative writing can bring substantial benefits in various areas of foreign language teaching. On the one hand, it is an effective means for innovative language practice in which students can express personal meaning; on the other, it creates academic benefits in terms of text analysis and comprehension, both for content and form, thus creating a nexus between reading and writing. Moreover, it can also make the language learning process enjoyable and stimulating. The course will be highly practical; students will do their own creative writing and also become familiar with numerous games and activities to develop in their classes. Since the course is taught in English and students will have to do some creative writing themselves, a high level of English is expected (at least a C1 Common European Framework).

2. AIMS

Generic competences:

- Improve critical analysis and comprehension skills that help develop effective written expression in the foreign language.
- Apply new knowledge and problem-solving skills within new multidisciplinary contexts.
- Strengthen autonomous learning abilities.
- Examine, reflect and integrate new and creative strategies in order to promote students’ learning.

Specific competences:

By the end of the course, participants are expected to:

- View writing as a process and a method of discovery.
- Provide an understanding of the characteristics of creative writing.
• Create a greater awareness of purpose and audience.
• Provide a framework for language analysis and writing techniques.
• Acquire practical knowledge on how to generate ideas and develop narrative and descriptive strategies to stimulate writing.
• Learn about the importance of drafting, revising and evaluating writing activities.
• Provide an understanding of ways to help students overcome their fears of writing.

3. MODULE CONTENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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| 1. **Writing as a process; writing as discovery.**  
  - Techniques for exploratory writing: freewriting, brainstorming, listing, free association, etc. | 0.5 credits |
| 2. **Creative writing strategies**  
  - Particularizing events and people: narratives and descriptions  
  - Invention and revision | 1 credit |
| 3. **Techniques to stimulate creative writing:**  
  - Writing creative stories  
  - Writing poetry: playing with language | 1.5 credits |
| 4. **Creative writing projects**  
  - Design, presentation and evaluation of different proposals to develop Foreign Language skills through the use of creative writing in real classroom contexts. | 1 credit |

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

4.1. Student workload (100 hours)

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class contact hours</td>
<td>12 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and assignments</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
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4.2. Learning activities

We will take a workshop approach to creative writing; thus, class attendance and active participation is essential. Participants will be introduced to and have the opportunity to try out a variety of exploratory writing techniques and exercises aimed at stimulating the imagination and developing writing strategies that can be used in an English classroom. They will do their own creative writing and revisions, much in the manner their students would do. Students will also design creative writing activities. There will also be opportunities for participants to share their ideas about writing and their experiments with writing. Students will leave the course with a dossier of creative writing activities for different ages and levels so they can use them later in their classes.

5. ASSESSMENT

Assessment criteria:

Given that this is a post-graduate course, a level C1 student is required to follow the course contents and complete the course assignments satisfactorily.

Students are expected to attend all the scheduled seminars. For those students who attend at least 75% of the face-to-face sessions, the assessment of the course will be based on a combination of active class participation, a portfolio including different written assignments, readings and class activities, and a final project.

- Class participation: 20%. This component will be assessed in terms of students’ engagement in the face-to-face sessions, the quality of their contributions and their attitude.
- Creative writing portfolio: 40%. Analysis, design, development and assessment of creative writing activities. Each assignment will be marked independently and will add to the overall mark of the portfolio.
- Final project: 40%. Students will design and develop a creative writing project. The final mark for this part will be based on the submission of the written project and an oral presentation of the project in class.

Those who, due to special and exceptional reasons cannot come to class and request permission to take a final exam, will be expected to do the portfolio written assignments (50%), and the final project (50%)

IMPORTANT:
- Academic honesty. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of this course.


Websites

PIZZAZ!: an online resource with simple creative writing and oral storytelling activities for use with students of all ages.
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~leslieob/pizzaz.html
Do-it-yourself-comics
http://pixton.com/es/create

Teaching Ideas. Creative Writing
http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/english/creative.htm

7. ADDITIONAL PROVISION

The University of Alcalá guarantees that if, due to health requirements, the public authorities prevent teaching activity from taking place on the University's premises, the teaching plans' objectives will be met through an online teaching and evaluation methodology. The UAH commits to return to face-to-face teaching as soon as said impediments cease.