

Cultural Studies

Code: 100208
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

- Students are advised to have passed all first and second year subjects in the English Studies degree before taking this subject.
- The starting level of English is C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment, which means that the student is able to understand a wide range of long, complex texts and can recognize implicit meanings. S/he can express him or herself fluently and spontaneously without it being obvious that s/he is searching for the correct word or expression. The student should be able to use the language efficiently and flexibly for social, academic and professional purposes. S/he should be able to produce clear, well structured and detailed texts on complex topics and demonstrate his or her control over organizing structures and connectors.
- The required level for the final dissertation (TFG) is C2, which requires the student to understand what he or she reads or hears without effort. S/he should be able to summarize information from other sources, both oral and written, build up arguments and present them coherently. S/he should also be able to express him or herself spontaneously, fluently and precisely, and distinguish subtleties in all kinds of situations.
- An interest in documentary film is also essential, as this is the focus of the course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject Cultural Studies in English provides an introduction to the methodology of this area through close reading and discussion of the various theoretical debates as well as analyses of case studies.

After taking the subject Cultural Studies in English, the student will be able to

- Understand the methodologies associated with this area of study
- Apply these methodologies to case studies of all kinds of cultural texts
- Use the cultural studies resources of any university library
- Express an informed critique of academic texts in the area

Competences

English Studies

- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Generate innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activities.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
2. Apply the knowledge and competences acquired in the professional and academic activities related to literature, history and culture.
3. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
4. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
5. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
6. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
7. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
8. Demonstrate a sound knowledge about advanced topics related to the study of literature and culture.
9. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
10. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
11. Produce new professional initiatives.
12. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
13. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.

Content

Cultural Studies in English will focus on the genre of the documentary as a tool to practice Cultural Studies.

1. Introduction to Cultural Studies: Definition
2. Origins of Cultural Studies: Great Britain, United States, Spain
3. Theory in Cultural Studies
4. Methodologies in Cultural Studies
5. The concept of text in Cultural Studies

6. Case Study: The documentary film as a tool to practice Cultural Studies

Methodology

1 ECTS credit = 25 hores; 6 credits = 150 hores

- Guided activities (30%, 1.8 cr)
- Supevised activities (15%, 0.9 cr)
- Autonomous activities (50%, 3 cr)
- Assessment activities (5%, 0.3 cr)

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class debates (presential and virtual)	10	0.4	3, 4, 13, 8, 7, 9, 6
Lectures	35	1.4	5, 13, 12, 9, 6, 10
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials on the factsheets	5	0.2	4, 5, 13, 10
Writing the factsheets on the documentaries	20	0.8	3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 13, 12, 8, 7, 9, 6, 11, 10
Type: Autonomous			
Locating and studying secondary sources	10	0.4	4, 1, 2, 5, 12, 7, 11, 10
Reading, viewing and text analysis	35	1.4	3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 13, 12, 11, 10

Assessment

Assessment on this course is based on the following:

- Writing of diverse factsheets on the documentaries studied in the course= 50%
- Exam on the theory of Cultural Studies = 25% (You need to choose an aspect of the handbook *Introducing Cultural Studies*, prepare an outline at home and write in class a 500-word essay
- Participation on class debates (presential, virtual) = 25%

Please, note_

- Assessment is continuous.
- All the exercises are compulsory; if they're not submitted the student will not be given a final mark.
- The minimum final mark to have a right to re-assessment is 3'5. The minimum to pass the course is 5.
- 25% of the mark in all exercises will correspond to the use of English
- Exercise reviewing and re-assessment: all students have the right to a personal tutorial with the teacher, within the period announced (not later than two weeks), to review their exercises and agree on the conditions of re-assessment. The exam can be re-assessed (with a second exam) and also the factsheets (with a second delivery). Class particpaction cannot be re-assessed
- VERY IMPORTANT: Partial or total plagiarism from an uncredited source will automatically result in a 0 (FAIL) for the course.

Important dates:

- 15 April: Exam
- 8 June: Factsheets deadline
- The final mark will be available one week later

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class participation	25%	5	0.2	3, 1, 13, 9, 6, 11
Preparing an exam question and writing the exam	25%	10	0.4	3, 5, 13, 8, 7, 9, 6, 10
Writing the factsheets on the documentaries	50%	20	0.8	3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 13, 12, 8, 7, 9, 6, 11, 10

Bibliography

David Walton, *Introducing Cultural Studies: Learning through Practice*, London: Sage, 2007. (compulsory)

<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/introducing-cultural-studies/book228363>

Besty A. McLane, *A New History of Documentary*. London: Bloomsbury, 2012. (recommended)

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/a-new-history-of-documentary-film-9781441124579/>