

**UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA**  
**FACULTAD DE LETRAS**  
**Escuela de Lenguas Modernas**  
**Bachillerato en Inglés**  
**Profesorado y Bachillerato en la Enseñanza del Inglés**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Name: Communication and Pronunciation Techniques III LM-1471	Requisites: LM-1361, LM-1362, LM-1363 Co-requisites: None
Credits: 3	Type: Plan de Estudios B.A. in English and B.A. and Profesorado in English Teaching
Schedule: 4 hours / week in-class work 8 hours / week out-of-class work	16 weeks
Level: Fourth year	VII In-person course <i>Modality: In-person instruction 100%</i>

**I. DESCRIPTION**

LM-1471 is a required fourth-year course that is designed to develop students' ability to discuss analytically, fluently, and effectively a variety of topics of social, cultural, and/or economic interest. The purpose of this course is to introduce fourth-year students to advanced film analysis. This course requires students to think critically about noncommercial and/or independent movies. It also examines the elements of film form such as mise-en-scène, sound, and color, among others to hone students' skills in analyzing how these elements build meaning. These and other terms will be applied to analyze, describe and interpret films in both in-class discussions and presentations. Students must also apply oral skills acquired in previous courses.

Mediación Virtual will be used as a tool to keep information organized and upload videos, documents, and resources for students' reference. Thus, students are required to have a UCR account. Together with the instructor, students will also use the institutional platform, all in accordance with the University's guidelines, as a repository for extra materials, to submit any assignment required during the semester, to display the detailed guidelines for every assignment, and other teaching-learning requirements for the course.

**II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

Increase English fluency as well as appropriate grammar structures and further develop analytical skills through the discussion of specific topics of social, cultural, and/or economic interest as manifested in selected readings and films.

### III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the students will:

1. Detect and correct their phonological and syntactical errors.
2. Apply knowledge concerning speech patterns in speeches, class discussions, and/or presentations.
3. Be able to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transcribe high-frequency and topic-related words.
4. Develop listening skills through an immersion into the specific native language environment offered by each film and comprehend different English accents and idiomatic expressions routinely used in films.
5. Analyze the interaction between linguistic and paralinguistic elements (e.g., facial expressions and body movements) and base, in part, their interpretation of discourse on their readings of those paralinguistic elements that make up the global communicative context.
6. Recognize the general components of an artistic film (e.g., symbols, character development, conflict, and denouement) of a controversial topic.
7. Discuss a particular artist's moral and ethical values—the artistic worldview or *Weltanschauung* of the visual work of art—as manifested through the ideological structure of a film.
8. Articulate their thoughts about a particular film through a cogent, coherent, well-organized presentation that avoids mere plot summary and focuses instead on an in-depth analysis of a film's specific ideological content as reflected in the film's symbolic and formal properties.

### IV. CONTENT/TOPICS

1. Speech Patterns: Rising-Falling Intonation, Rising Intonation
2. Definition of Artistic Versus Commercial Movies (maturation of the self, the melodramatic movie, symbols, characterization, setting, and any other related topic)
  - a. General introduction to film analysis: terminology, concepts, subjective reactions of the film, creative design, story structure, visual design, camera work, and sound.
  - b. Narrative and genre
  - c. Mise-en-scène

- d. Sound
  - e. Symbols
  - f. Color
3. The Individual and Society: the psychology of films
  4. Interpersonal Relations: the psychology of films

## V. METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES

Students will be required to work individually and in groups to carry out a variety of tasks. Class time will be used to discuss and analyze both the reading and film assigned for that specific date. Students will have the opportunity to communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in oral forms appropriate to the discipline. The professor will guide the students in the discussion and ensure the participation of all the students. Students will participate in a previewing session (e.g., glossary, questions, and a brief synopsis of the film) and a post-viewing discussion of the film where analysis of the artistic and select linguistic components (e.g., idiomatic expressions, accents) of the film, and the attendant reading, if used, will be explored. Throughout the semester, the students will participate in any kind of oral communication technique studied in previous courses such as group discussions, debates, or speeches to reflect on assigned films and readings. Given the nature of this course, the students must fully prepare themselves prior to class and participate actively in class discussions.

Communication will be done in person. Mediación Virtual will be used as a tool to keep information organized and upload videos, documents, and resources for students' reference.

## VI. EVALUATION

Oral evaluation #1	10%
Oral evaluation #2	10%
Exam I	30%
Exam II	30%
Quizzes: <i>announced or unannounced</i> (minimum 3)	20%

## VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLASS RULES

- The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols included in the 2005 version will be used in this course.
- In this course, students will be required to prepare a thorough self-assessment evaluation. The students will listen to the recording of their presentations and analyze them carefully. This self-assessment must be typed. Students must listen to their recordings and type every mistake made. For example, if there were vocal fillers in their presentations, their evidence will be the ones they make: uh, um, aha, em, etc. (see self-assessment sample in the

anthology for specific guidelines). The main goal of this activity is to improve the students' overall performance.

- Quizzes (announced or unannounced) may include vocabulary, pronunciation, theory, transcriptions, self-assessments, presentations, research, and any other content or technique studied in class or assigned by the professor. If pop quizzes are applied, these will not take more than 5% of the overall quiz percentage.
- **Oral presentations, oral quizzes, and exams will be recorded.** Students are responsible for recording the audio of every oral evaluation to be used for their self-assessment quiz.
- Tribunal exams will evaluate new movies in order to apply the strategies and theory learned throughout the semester. **These tests will be graded by all the professors teaching the course. The tests will be recorded.**
- In addition to the standard tribunal exams (I and II), students will be asked to participate in class discussions and deliver two oral presentations during the course of the semester. Each presentation will be delivered before each exam. These presentations should be based on an analysis of a specific element in a movie (e.g., the development and maturation of a character, the interaction between two characters, a repeated phrase, a symbol or motif, the use of irony, a sequence of scenes, among others).
- Students may use notes (index cards, not a sheet of paper) for their presentations. But please observe that the notes are to be used judiciously; they are meant to be a guide, not a text. In other words, students must not read their presentations from a prepared set of notes. Please note that *material from the Internet* is a form of cheating (i.e., plagiarism). Merely going to the internet and downloading material and then reciting that material in front of the class is *not* considered a presentation. **If students read, they will automatically receive a grade of 5 or below. This will also apply to the memorization of the content.**
- Students must watch all the films to be able to be ready for the corresponding analysis. The movies chosen may change at any time; **if students cannot see one of them during the time allotted, it is their responsibility to make arrangements on their own to watch it.** The film showings constitute what usually would be considered laboratory time.
- No interruptions or late arrivals will be permitted during presentations, and there will not be any make-up tests or presentations unless there is a valid justification (health problems or death of close family members; check “Reglamento de Régimen Académico Estudiantil, Capítulo VI, artículo 24, de las normas de evaluación”).
- Details of the different assignments will be specified in a separate document on MV, not in the course outline.

- **No late work will be accepted.** Assignments must be submitted on time. Only under very special circumstances, at the professor's discretion, will late assignments be accepted. In this case, 40% may be taken off the assignment's grade.
- Cell phones and any other electronic device **must always be kept off and put away** as mandated by the University regulations.
- **Plagiarism will not be tolerated** as this constitutes a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will be given a zero; an account of the student's fault will be kept in his/her records.

### General class policies:

- All classes are **on-site** and will start on time.
- Students are responsible for all the material discussed in class and/or assigned (read, study, and prepare before coming to class, not after).
- Students will meet with the instructor when so required by either party during office hours.
- Participation and attendance are fundamental to pass the course. Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- English is the required language of instruction.
- No extra credit will be given to any student.
- This proposed course outline/syllabus may be modified to adjust to the pace and needs of the group.

### Academic Honesty

- Students are expected to follow the codes of honor and academic ethics as set forth in the University regulations. In fact, honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of this University community. Academic dishonesty by a student will not be tolerated, for it threatens the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge.
- Plagiarism/Cheating/Forgery/Collusion will be punished as severely as university regulations permit.

## VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bordwell, D. & Thomson, K. (2008). *Film art: An introduction*. NY: McGraw-Hill.

Cohen, J. (1996). *Monster theory: Reading culture*. Minnesota, University of Minnesota Press.

Eglinton, Y. (2015). *Feminist literary theory: An introductory handbook*. New York: Textual Matters.

Lewis, J. (2012). *Essential cinema: An introduction to film analysis*. MA: Wadsworth Cengage

Learning.

Dale, P. & Poms, L. (2005). *English pronunciation made simple*. NY: Longman.

Lujan, B. (2004). *The American accent guide* (2nd ed.). Utah: Lingual Arts.

Orion, G.F. (2012). *Pronouncing American English: Sounds, stress, and intonation*. Boston:

Heinle Cengage Learning.

*\*Some other materials taken from various sources may also be part of the course (readings, videos, listening activities, and others).*

## **REGLAMENTO DE ORDEN Y DISCIPLINA DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA**

**Artículo 4.** Son faltas muy graves:

- g) Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier índole.
- j) Plagiar, en todo o en parte, obras intelectuales de cualquier tipo.
- k) Presentar como propia una obra intelectual elaborada por otra u otras personas, para cumplir con los requisitos de cursos, trabajos finales de graduación o actividades académicas similares.

**Artículo 9.** Las faltas serán **sancionadas** según la magnitud del hecho con las siguientes medidas:

- a) Las faltas **muy graves**, con suspensión de su condición de estudiante regular **no menor de seis meses** calendario, hasta por **seis años** calendario.
- b) Las **graves** con suspensión de **quince días lectivos** a **seis meses** calendario.

Según la Oficina Jurídica de la Universidad de Costa Rica, el **plagio** es un tipo de **fraude** considerado muy grave, por lo tanto para su sanción se debe aplicar el Artículo 4, inciso g) del Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica y los procedimientos establecidos en los artículos del 11 al 20.

## **REGLAMENTO DE REGIMEN ACADÉMICO ESTUDIANTIL**

**ARTÍCULO 22.** Debe observarse el siguiente procedimiento, en relación con la calificación, entrega e impugnación de los resultados de cualquier prueba de evaluación, salvo disposición expresa en contrario:

- a) El profesor debe entregar a los alumnos las evaluaciones calificadas y todo documento o material sujeto a evaluación, a más tardar diez días hábiles después de haberse efectuado las evaluaciones y haber recibido los documentos.

**ARTÍCULO 24.** Cuando el estudiante se vea imposibilitado, por razones justificadas, para efectuar una evaluación en la fecha fijada, puede presentar una solicitud de reposición a más tardar en cinco días hábiles a partir del momento en que se reintegre normalmente a sus estudios. Esta solicitud debe presentarla ante el profesor que imparte el curso, adjuntando la documentación y las razones por las cuales no pudo efectuar la prueba, con el fin de que el profesor determine, en los tres días hábiles posteriores a la presentación de la solicitud, si procede una reposición. Si ésta procede, el profesor deberá fijar la fecha de reposición, la cual no podrá establecerse en un plazo menor de cinco días hábiles contados a partir del momento en que el estudiante se reintegre normalmente a sus estudios. Son justificaciones: la muerte de un pariente hasta de segundo grado, la enfermedad del estudiante u otra situación de fuerza mayor o caso fortuito. En caso de rechazo, esta decisión podrá ser apelada ante la dirección de la unidad académica en los cinco días hábiles posteriores a la notificación del rechazo, según lo establecido en este Reglamento.

### Tentative Timetable

Weeks	Content	Readings, assignments, and other
<b>Week 1</b> <i>March 11-13</i>	Introduction to the course / Diagnostic / Elements to carry out movie analysis.	<b>Reading: Analyzing movies</b>
<b>Week 2</b> March 18-20	Elements to carry out movie analysis. The Hero's Journey (monomyth) MOVIE #1 Movie Analysis #1	<i>Movie 1: Pleasantville</i> <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative</li> <li>• Color</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b> April 1-3	Movie Analysis #1 Pronunciation review	<b>Reading: Symbolism</b>
<b>Week 4</b> April 8-10	MOVIE #2 Movie Analysis #2 Movie analysis theory	<i>Movie 2: Little Miss Sunshine</i> <b>Reading: Mise-en-scène</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <i>April 15 HOLIDAY</i> April 17	Movie Analysis #2 Pronunciation Movie analysis theory	<b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monster Culture</li> <li>• Sound</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b> April 22-24	Movie Analysis #2 <b>Oral evaluation 1</b> (on any topic from the previous movies) <i>(Self-assessment 1: Ss hand in their self-assessment 1: Analysis of the following audios: Diagnostic 1, ICQ1, ICQ 2, and oral evaluation 1)</i>	<b>Reading: Camera work</b>
<b>Week 7</b> April 29 <i>May 1 HOLIDAY</i>	<b>Oral evaluation 1</b> (on any topic from the previous movies) <i>(Self-assessment 1: Ss hand in their self-assessment 1: Analysis of the following audios: Diagnostic 1, ICQ1, ICQ 2, and oral evaluation 1)</i>	
<b>Week 8</b> May 6-8	Feedback on oral evaluation 1 Theory and discussion review	
<b>Week 9</b> May 13-15	<b>Oral Exam #1</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> May 20-22	Oral Exam 1 Feedback MOVIE #3 Pronunciation	<i>Movie 3: Promising Young Woman</i> <b>Reading: Feminist theory</b>
<b>Week 11</b> May 27-29	Movie analysis #3	
<b>Week 12</b> June 3-5	MOVIE #4 Movie analysis #4	<i>Movie 4: Joker</i>
<b>Week 13</b> June 10-12	Movie analysis #4 Pronunciation	

<b>Week 14</b> June 17-19	<b>Oral evaluation 2</b> (on any topic from movies 3 and 4) <i>(Self-assessment 2: hand in their self-assessment quiz 2: Analysis of the following audios: Exam 1, ICQ3, ICQ 4 and oral evaluation 2)</i>	
<b>Week 15</b> June 24-26	Course debriefing: How do films tell stories? Analyzing films and the development of critical thinking skills	
<b>Week 16</b> July 1-3	<b>Oral Exam # 2</b>	

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **Final grades: Monday, July 8th, 2024**
- **Exam I: WEEK 9**
- **Exam II: WEEK 16**
- **Ampliación Exam: Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 8:00 am to noon**