

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
Credits: 3	Co-requisites: None
Schedule: 4 hours / week in-class work 8 hours / week out-of-class work	Type: Plan de Estudios B.A. in English and B.A. and Profesorado in English Teaching 16 weeks
Level: Fourth year	VII Online Delivery modality: High (100%)

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.

Since this course is 100% online, *Mediación Virtual* will be used as the official platform for online classes. Thus, students are required to have a UCR account and to participate in all the online activities of the course. 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, to take written exams/quizzes; 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.

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Synchronous sessions will not be recorded; hence, it is fundamental that students join the

session on time and actively participate in class with their cameras on if technical conditions allow this. In the case of exams and oral presentations, all cameras must be on. All students are required to make use of their institutional email to receive emails from the professor of the course and contact her.

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 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 normally 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 no later than 15 minutes after the beginning of the class. 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 **online** 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 virtual 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.

LINEAMIENTOS ACADÉMICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS PARA LA DOCENCIA CON COMPONENTE VIRTUAL (VD-11502-2020)

ARTÍCULO 19. Disponibilidad y acceso a las grabaciones de la clase.

Debido a que las grabaciones de clases u otras actividades académicas pueden contener datos personales de acceso restringido, como el video, imagen y la voz de la persona participante, los archivos de dichas grabaciones no son de carácter público y únicamente pueden emplearse para propósitos académicos. En los cursos de libre asistencia, los efectos de la no asistencia a clases deben ser valorados por la persona estudiante como parte de su decisión de no asistir. Por tanto, el archivo de la grabación de la clase no tiene como propósito principal sustituir la asistencia de la persona estudiante.

Resolución Vicerrectoría de Docencia (VD-12784-2023)

Artículo 41. Desarrollo de clases virtuales sincrónicas. En la planificación e implementación de clases virtuales sincrónicas, se deben tomar en consideración los siguientes aspectos:

- a. Con el fin de facilitar la identificación y la participación activa de las personas matriculadas en el curso, las personas docentes deben invitar a que las personas estudiantes activen voluntariamente su audio y/o video durante el transcurso de la lección. La persona docente podrá establecer la activación obligatoria del audio y/o el video cuando, a su criterio, ello sea requerido para cumplir con los objetivos de aprendizaje.
- b. Durante la realización de evaluaciones en clases virtuales sincrónicas, ya sean pruebas escritas, pruebas orales, actividades colaborativas u otras interacciones, la habilitación del video y/o el audio es obligatoria para todas las personas involucradas.

Tentative Timetable

Weeks	Content	Readings, assignments, and other
Week 1 <i>August 12 & 14</i> Synchronous	Introduction to the course / Diagnostic / Elements to carry out movie analysis.	Reading: Analyzing movies
Week 2 <i>August 19 & 21</i> Synchronous	Elements to carry out movie analysis. The Hero's Journey (monomyth) MOVIE #1 Movie Analysis #1	Movie 1: <i>Pleasantville & The Last Supper</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narrative ● Color ● Symbolism
Week 3 <i>August 26 & 28</i> Synchronous	Movie Analysis #1 and complementary texts Pronunciation review	<i>Scent of a Woman</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The hero's journey ● Mise-en-scène
Week 4 <i>September 2 & 4</i> Synchronous		
Week 5 <i>September 9 & 11</i> Synchronous	MOVIE #2 Movie Analysis #2 Pronunciation Movie analysis theory	Movie 2: <i>Joker</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monster Culture ● Sound
Week 6 <i>September 16 & 18</i> Synchronous	Oral evaluation 1 (Group discussion: Comparison-contrast exercise between <i>Joker</i> and <i>Cruella</i>) <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>	Complementary movie: <i>Cruella</i> .
Week 7 <i>September 23 & 25</i> Synchronous	Feedback on oral evaluation 1 Theory and discussion review	
Week 8 <i>Sept. 30 & Oct. 2</i> Synchronous	Oral Exam #1	
Week 9 <i>October 7 & 9</i>	Oral Exam 1 Feedback MOVIE #3 Movie Analysis #3	Movie 3: <i>Crash</i> Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Camera work

<i>Synchronous</i>		
Week 10 <i>October 14 & 16</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Movie Analysis #3 Pronunciation	Complementary movie: <i>Who is Dayani Cristal?</i>
Week 11 <i>October 21 & 23</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	MOVIE #4 Movie analysis #4	Movie 4: <i>Thelma and Louise</i> Reading: • Feminist theory
Week 12 <i>October 28 & 30</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Movie analysis #4	
Week 13 <i>November 4 & 6</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Movie analysis #4	
Week 14 <i>November 11 & 13</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Oral evaluation 2 (Group discussion: Comparison-contrast exercise between <i>Barbie</i> and one of these films <i>Moana</i> , <i>Brave</i> , <i>Mulan</i>) (<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>)	Complementary movies: <i>Moana/ Brave/ Barbie</i>
Week 15 <i>November 18 & 20</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Course debriefing: How do films tell stories? Analyzing films and the development of critical thinking skills	
Week 16 <i>November 25 & 27</i> <i>Synchronous</i>	Oral Exam # 2	

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Final grades: Monday, December 2nd, 2024**
- **Exam I: WEEK 8**
- **Exam II: WEEK 16**
- **Ampliación Exam: Wednesday, December 11th, 2024, 8:00 am to noon**