



Teaching Guide

Identifying Data					2014/15
Subject (*)	Literatura Norteamericana nos seus Textos	Code	613G03047		
Study programme	Grao en Inglés: Estudos Lingüísticos e Literarios				
Descriptors					
Cycle	Period	Year	Type	Credits	
Graduate	2nd four-month period	Fourth	Optativa	4.5	
Language	English				
Prerequisites					
Department	Filoloxía Inglesa				
Coordinador	Frias Rudolphi, Maria	E-mail	maria.frias@udc.es		
Lecturers	Frias Rudolphi, Maria	E-mail	maria.frias@udc.es		
Web					
General description	This course is designed to provide students with a historic and literary overview of African American writing in US., as well as a critical study of various genres such as vernacular tradition (Black English), short story, drama, and the novel. Beginning with slave narratives, we will analyze outstanding works from the Harlem Renaissance, the School of Protest, the Black Aesthetics Movement, and we will also pause to look at contemporary black women writers. We will read texts which are concerned with race, sex, and politics to see to what extent they are central in a larger cultural and historical mainstream context. Basically, the aim of this course is to provide students with knowledge of the literary roots of African American writing so that they may better contextualize more recent and popular works.				

Study programme competences

Code	Study programme competences
A1	Coñecer e aplicar os métodos e as técnicas de análise lingüística e literaria.
A2	Saber analizar e comentar textos e discursos literarios e non literarios utilizando apropiadamente as técnicas de análise textual.
A6	Ter un dominio instrumental avanzado oral e escrito da lingua inglesa.
A11	Ter capacidade para avaliar, analizar e sintetizar criticamente información especializada.
A14	Ser capaz para identificar problemas e temas de investigación no ámbito dos estudos lingüísticos e literarios e interrelacionar os distintos aspectos destes estudos.
A16	Ter un coñecemento avanzado das literaturas en lingua inglesa.
A17	Coñecer a historia e a cultura das comunidades anglófonas.
A18	Dominar a gramática da lingua inglesa.
A19	Coñecer a situación sociolingüística da lingua inglesa.
A20	Coñecer a variación lingüística da lingua inglesa.
A21	Coñecer a evolución histórica externa e interna da lingua inglesa.
B1	Utilizar os recursos bibliográficos, as bases de datos e as ferramentas de busca de información.
B2	Manexar ferramentas, programas e aplicacións informáticas específicas.
B3	Adquirir capacidade de autoformación.
B4	Ser capaz de comunicarse de maneira efectiva en calquera contorno.
B5	Relacionar os coñecementos cos doutras áreas e disciplinas.
B6	Ter capacidade de organizar o traballo, planificar e xestionar o tempo e resolver problemas de forma efectiva.
B7	Ter capacidade de análise e síntese, de valorar criticamente o coñecemento e de exercer o pensamento crítico.
B8	Apreciar a diversidade.
B9	Valorar a importancia que ten a investigación, a innovación e o desenvolvemento tecnolóxico no avance socioeconómico e cultural da sociedade.
C2	Dominar a expresión e a comprensión de forma oral e escrita dun idioma estranxeiro.
C3	Utilizar as ferramentas básicas das tecnoloxías da información e as comunicacións (TIC) necesarias para o exercicio da súa profesión e para a aprendizaxe ao longo da súa vida.
C4	Desenvolverse para o exercicio dunha cidadanía aberta, culta, crítica, comprometida, democrática e solidaria, capaz de analizar a realidade, diagnosticar problemas, formular e implantar solucións baseadas no coñecemento e orientadas ao ben común.



C6	Valorar criticamente o coñecemento, a tecnoloxía e a información dispoñible para resolver os problemas cos que deben afrontarse.
C7	Asumir como profesional e cidadán a importancia da aprendizaxe ao longo da vida.
C8	Valorar a importancia que ten a investigación, a innovación e o desenvolvemento tecnolóxico no avance socioeconómico e cultural da sociedade.

Learning outcomes			
Subject competencies (Learning outcomes)	Study programme competences		
Familiarize themselves with some of the most relevant authors and their corresponding texts.	A1		
To be able to read critically. To be able to identify specific gender and race issues within the texts required.	A6		
To know how to relate mainstream American literary discourse and recurrent topics with those which are particular to African American writers in general.	A11 A14 A16 A17 A19 A20 A21	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9	C2 C3 C4 C6 C7 C8
To identify recurrent themes and/or literary discourses among the African American writers analyzed, and formulate students' own conclusions.	A2		
Use the appropriate bibliography (books, chapters of books, films, or literary magazines). Research work via internet facilities		B1	
Be fluent in English (C2). For both written texts and oral presentations, students should make good use of English grammar. Written texts/exercises should be well organized, coherent, and readable.	A6 A18		
To be able to compare and contrast texts that deal with totally different issues and written by different authors . Throughout the semester students are shown how to organize their comparative short essays. This method implies a "close reading", a critical reading as well as personal comments.		B5	
Be able to work in groups, organize the time allotted, set priorities, share knowledge, distribute tasks, establish individual responsibilities and make good use of team's diversity.		B6	
Literature is about life. Students should be able to develop a keen interest on and an understanding of race and gender issues in our own community as well as worldwide. They are encouraged to bring to class information about any particular topic related to subject that might be of interest to the class (media news, a concert, a film, exhibitions, etc)			C7
African Americans were brought by force to the Americas (and Europe) to work as slaves. This subject teaches students to respect the Other--no matter what kind of otherness that particular person represents. The knowledge of the socio historical background--racist, discriminatory, and terribly violent--should make the students (us all) better understand the differences within a given community and respect them--whether one agrees or not.			C4

Contents	
Topic	Sub-topic
The Literature of Slavery and Freedom	On Slave Narratives and "The Land of Milk and Honey." (Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Phillis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth)
The Harlem Renaissance and Modernism.	When Harlem Was in Vogue (1919-1940). (Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, Langston Hughes).



Realism and Naturalism in Racist US.	The Protest Novel. (Richard Wright).
The Black Arts Movement.	The Sixties, Civil Rights Movement, and "Black is Beautiful." (James Baldwin, Nikki Giovanni, Gwendolyn Brooks, Amiri Baraka).
African American Drama.	On Dreams Deferred. (From Lorraine Hansberry to August Wilson).
African American Women's Literature since 1970.	Black Women Writers: From Mammies to Militants. (Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, Taiye Selassi).

Planning			
Methodologies / tests	Ordinary class hours	Student's personal work hours	Total hours
Workbook	0	25	25
Oral presentation	1	11	12
Short answer questions	2.5	0	2.5
Guest lecture / keynote speech	16	16	32
Long answer / essay questions	5	25	30
Workshop	7	2	9
Introductory activities	2	1	3
Personalized attention	1	0	1

(*)The information in the planning table is for guidance only and does not take into account the heterogeneity of the students.

Methodologies	
Methodologies	Description
Workbook	<p>Required readings are presented chronologically to better understand the social context as well as the role African American Literature plays in mainstream American Literary discourse.</p> <p>Thanks to the detailed syllabus students will receive and have access to via Moodle, they will know ahead of time the readings assigned for each class session.</p> <p>Students are expected to read carefully and critically, and come to their own conclusions. They are also expected to come to class with the required reading assigned done.</p> <p>Instructor would highlight most relevant aspects so students might be informed before they actually start their own reading. Thus, instructor will provide a brief introduction which includes critical reception, form, and themes, among others.</p>
Oral presentation	<p>Class presentation is team work. Format required is power point presentation.</p> <p>Students choose topic from the list provided by instructor of works and texts we are NOT dealing with in class. Students should inform the instructor about the author/work of their choice. For the class presentation students need to include the following: brief author's bio and plot summary; critical reception (two reviews: one positive; one negative); an interview with writer (when and if possible); an article from a literary magazine or chapter of book, and any other visual material they think relevant (clips from film adaptations; clips from documentaries; articles from media, etc).</p> <p>Team is made of 4 students (max.)</p>
Short answer questions	<p>This is an "identify-quizz type" test.</p> <p>Students are expected to provide brief and to the point responses.</p> <p>From a list, students should identify an item, a recurrent expression, a metaphor, a proper name, a setting or a particular statement from the required readings. The idea is to go from the very particular to the more general.</p> <p>Students should comment on the reasons why they think that particular word or words are relevant to the whole text.</p>



Guest lecture / keynote speech	<p>This is NOT the traditional one-way boring lecture someone might expect. The purpose of this introductory talk is to familiarize students with the new required text and author, point out at main issues, comment on critical reception, and ask them to pay particular attention to certain passages, characters' reactions or narrative discourse used.</p> <p>Lecture always goes two ways. Students are more than welcome to interrupt and ask questions, or make comments. This lecture-type methodology is, in fact, more a dialogue between students and lecturer where students are NOT the "empty glass", and the instructor is NOT the "full jar".</p>
Long answer / essay questions	<p>At this stage, students should be able to write well organized, original, and critical short essays. This is NOT a class where you have to memorize dates and names. On the contrary, you are expected to read critically and write with a thesis statement in mind.</p> <p>Students, thus, are required to write a comparative essay about topics chosen by the instructor.</p> <p>You are given several options (up to four) to write about formal aspects of the text or about recurrent themes, critical approaches, or characterization. The use of evidence from the texts is a must, and this is the reason why students are allowed to use the books for this in-class test.</p> <p>Students will receive specific information on how to plan, organize, write, and edit comparative essay.</p> <p>Before the comparative essay, students will have the opportunity to work on and write a shorter essay (two to three pages long). This is a take-home assignment.</p>
Workshop	<p>A work-shop on how to do close reading always helps students to read creatively and critically.</p> <p>Following our methodology (from the more specific to the more general), students are provided a selection of quotations from the text we are reading in class. With the help of the instructor, we first point out at the most basic literary aspects. We focus on narrative voice, point of view, language used, tone and style, or characterization and setting. We always try to find individual responses for the following questions: Do you think this quote is relevant to the whole text? Why? Why not?</p>
Introductory activities	<p>Throughout the first week, students will be given specific information about what is expected from them, the different methodologies used in class, and how to help them better organize their time when preparing for reading, quizzes, short essay, comparative essay or class presentations.</p> <p>It is also important to know what students expect from a subject--African American Literature--which is not usually included in the syllabus of Spanish Universities.</p> <p>I would recommend students to be alert to any news in the media, a film, an exhibition, a concert, or a lecture related to our subject, and I would encourage them to share that information with the class.</p>

Personalized attention

Methodologies	Description
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Oral presentation	In general, oral presentations are a tough task for most students.
Guest lecture / keynote speech	To facilitate their planning and identify specific problems, students need to meet with instructor before they start working on their respective topics. In case they have difficulties finding a topic, instructor will help students to sort it out.
Long answer / essay questions	All presentations are in power point format and students receive specific information on how to organize, develop, and conclude presentation. After the oral presentation students will hand a "Making of" in print where they include the following:
Workshop	Table of Contents; Motivations; Difficulties or problem solving; Bibliography; Brief personal comment (10-15 lines, double spaced) and reader's response. More information to be included in class Syllabus.
	<p>Comparative Essay. It is a written text where students have to organize their own ideas about topic chosen and provide evidence from respective texts. Some students lack critical abilities, tend to be descriptive and plot-oriented, thus, in preparation for the long comparative essay, instructor would ask them to work on a take-home short essay (two-three pages long and double space). This initial assessment would help them prepare for the more in-depth, longer, and more challenging comparative essay.</p>
	<p>"Work-shop" on quotations from texts required.</p>
	<p>Some students find very hard to read critically and come up with their own ideas. This activity is class oriented. By pointing at the particular aspects that are relevant, and need to be analyzed, students get the grasp of what a "close reading" means at the same time they develop their own ideas from the given text. If time allowed, we tend to work in small groups (max. 4 students) where students are given a list of quotations, and the group is assigned a particular quote to fully analyze. After fifteen minutes (aprox.) each group provides their own interpretation. To prove their points, students are asked to provide evidence from the text.</p>

Assessment		
Methodologies	Description	Qualification
Oral presentation	<p>Students work in groups (up to 4 students max.), and present a topic to the class.</p> <p>From a list provided by the instructor, students choose one particular author and text which is NOT included in the required readings list.</p> <p>This is a power point presentation. They are required to provide, at least, the following information: brief plot summary; critical reception of work (minimum of a positive and a negative review); an interview with the author (if and when possible); information from a chapter of a book; they can also include some visual material (such as a clip from the film adaptation, a clip from a documentary, or news from the media). For the presentation students are encouraged to use some cards with notes, make sure it is cohesive and well organized, and pay special attention to their communicative skills.</p>	30
Short answer questions	<p>This is an "identify-quizz type" test.</p> <p>Students are expected to provide brief and to the point responses.</p> <p>From a list, students should identify an item, a recurrent expression, a metaphor, a proper name, a setting or a particular statement from the required readings. The idea is to go from the very particular to the more general. Students should comment on the reasons why they think that particular word or words are relevant to the whole text.</p>	10



Long answer / essay questions	<p>Students should show they have a good grasp of English. They have to express their ideas clearly and coherently.</p> <p>Since this is a comparative essay, students have to choose from several options, and provide a well organized essay where they make their points clear at the same time they support their ideas with evidence (quotations) from the text. Essay needs an introduction, a body and a conclusion. This is NOT a descriptive task, and I am not expecting to read your class notes, but hear your own voice, and learn from your personal and creative reading of the texts/themes required. Essay is based on information from required readings.</p> <p>Previous to the comparative essay, and to familiarize students with scientific/academic paper style, they will be asked to write a take-home short essay on a selection of texts and authors.</p>	40
Workshop	<p>Quotation Test.</p> <p>Based on the experience gained through "Quotation Workshop", students are prepared to pass an in-class test where they are asked to focus on ONE particular quotation, and provide a close reading. This is NOT a descriptive question (no plot-summary), but a question where the student is supposed to read critically. Quotations are selected from the required readings.</p> <p>Students are provided several choices (up to four).</p> <p>Students are expected to respond to the following questions: Do you think this quotation is relevant to the whole text? Why? Why not?</p>	20

Assessment comments

Depending on the number of students we could have more than one workshop on quotations. It will only benefit the students.

Students should pass ALL the tests/assignments to get a final grade. Those who fail any given test, and whose average grade is below the passing grade (50 points) will have to sit for July exam.

The July test has the following sections:

- 1) "Identify-Quizz" brief, simple questions to choose from a list given. Students should provide brief and accurate definitions.
- 2) One or more quotations from the required readings (Students should identify work and author as well as provide a close reading; analyze form, structure, language used, theme/s, setting, or particularities about gender, race, etc. Students should respond to the following questions: Do you think this quotation is relevant to the text? Why? Why not?
- 3) A comparative essay (introduction, body and conclusion) from the required readings. Students should provide evidence from the texts. Students are allowed to bring their reading material to the classroom. You do not need to memorize for this exercise. You need to read critically and write coherently. In all cases, students are given several options.

Students will be asked to sit for an oral test (specific content to be announced, but always related to required readings).N.P: A student will receive a grade of "Non Presentado" in case they do not sit for the July test and / or they do not complete 50% or more of the required assignments for the June continuous evaluation.

Students should sit for the test/assessment they do not pass (whether written or oral).Students who are officially allowed to attend only part-time and have been granted official dispensation from attending should contact instructor throughout the first TWO weeks of semester to discuss the specificities. Students can contact instructor via e-mail (maria.frias@udc.es), but a personal appointment is needed too.

In case students could not be able to sit for any of the tests required, they should contact me as soon as possible, to try and solve the problem.

Sources of information



<p>Basic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carby, Hazel (1987). <i>Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the Afro-American Woman Novelist</i>. New York: Oxford UP - McQueen, Steve (dir.) (2014). <i>12 Years a Slave</i>. 20th Century Fox - (). <i>African American Review</i>. - Christian, Barbara (1980). <i>Black Women Novelists, 1892-1976</i>. Westport (Connecticut) : Greenwood Press. - Beaulieu, Elizabeth Ann (1999). <i>Black Women Writers and the American Neo-Slave Narrative</i> . Westport: Greenwood P. - Baker, Houston (1984). <i>Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature: A Vernacular theory</i>. Chicago: Chicago UP. - Hill, Patricia Liggins (ed) (1998)). <i>Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition</i>. - hooks, bell (2000). <i>Feminist theory from margin to center..</i> Cambridge : Bell Hooks. - Stepto, Robert (1991). <i>From Behind the Veil: A Study of African American Narrative</i>. Urbana: U of Illinois P. - Christian, Barbara (2007). <i>New Black feminist criticism, 1985-2000</i> . Urbana : University of Illinois Press. - Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. (1997). <i>Norton Anthology of African American Literature..</i> Norton - hooks, bell (2006). <i>Outlaw culture : resisting representations /</i>. New York: Routledge - Andrew, Foster and Trudier Harris (eds) (2001). <i>Oxford Companion to African American Literature</i>. Oxford UP. - Gates, Henry Louis Jr. (1985). <i>Race, Writing, and Difference</i>. Chicago : The U of Chicago P - hooks, bell (2010). <i>Teaching critical thinking : practical wisdom</i>. New York: Routledge - Bell, Bernard (1987). <i>The Afro-American Novel and its Tradition</i>. Amherst : University of Massachusetts Press. - Graham, Maryemma (2004). <i>The Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel..</i> Cambridge UP
<p>Complementary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gadsby, Meredith. (2006). <i>Sucking salt : Caribbean women writers, migration, and surviva</i>. Columbia : University of Missouri P. - Frias, María (1998). <i>“Marriage Doesn’t Make Love”</i>: El discurso del matrimonio en la obra de Zora Neale Hurston. Alcalá: Universidad de Alcalá - Eastwood, Clint (dir.) (2001). <i>Bird</i>. Madrid: Warner Bross - Naylor, Gloria (2004). <i>Conversations with Gloria Naylor</i> . Jackson : University Press of Mississippi - King, Lovalerie (2008). <i>he Cambridge introduction to Zora Neale Hursto</i>. New York: Cambridge UP - Sirk, Douglass (dir.) (2005). <i>Imitation of life</i>. Universal City, Calif. : Universal Studios Home Video. - Fleischner, Jennifer. (1996). <i>Mastering slavery : memory, family, and identity in women’s slave narratives</i>. New York: New York UP - Fraile, Ana (1996). <i>ora Neale Hurston y su aportación a la literatura afroamericana [Recurso electrónico]</i>. Salamanca: Universidad P. - (2010). <i>Precious</i>. Madrid: Warner Bross - Sapphire (2010). <i>Push</i>. - Amian, Katrin. (2008). <i>Rethinking postmodernism(s) : Charles S. Peirce and the pragmatist negotiations of Thomas Pynchon, Toni Morrison, and Jonathan Safran Foer</i> . Amsterdam ; New York : Rodopi - Conner, Marc C. (2000). <i>The aesthetics of Toni Morrison speaking the unspeakable</i>. Jackson: UP of Miss., - Coppola, Francis (dir.) (1984). <i>The Cotton Club</i> . [USA] : Zoetrope Studios - Denard, Carolyn C. (ed). (2008). <i>Toni Morrison : conversations</i>. Jackson: UP of Miss.,

Recommendations

Subjects that it is recommended to have taken before

Traballo Fin de Grao/613G03041

Subjects that are recommended to be taken simultaneously

A Literatura Inglesa e a súa Crítica/613G03032

Literatura Inglesa (Séculos XVIII e XIX/613G03036

Subjects that continue the syllabus



Literatura Norteamericana 1/613G03024

Literatura Poscolonial/613G03026

Cuestións de Lingua Inglesa/613G03031

A Literatura Inglesa e a súa Crítica/613G03032

Literatura Norteamericana 2/613G03035

Variedades do Inglés/613G03042

Literatura e Artes Visuais/613G03044

Other comments

(*)The teaching guide is the document in which the URV publishes the information about all its courses. It is a public document and cannot be modified. Only in exceptional cases can it be revised by the competent agent or duly revised so that it is in line with current legislation.