

Language Skills with Harry Potter

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Mon 1:20 – 3:10, HSS, C413

Rationale: The Harry Potter books have been extremely popular all over the world, including with young people in Taiwan. It is also known that the use of material of interest to students increases their motivation to learn. For these reasons, and because the teacher likes them, the Harry Potter books and films are used for this course.

Objectives: To advance students abilities in Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening. To expand students' vocabulary in English. To increase students' knowledge of British and English-speaking cultures.

Prerequisite: This course is aimed at students with a relatively high level of English ability equal to the level of the students in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. Many students of other departments do meet these standards and they are welcome to take this course. If you do not feel your level of English is comparable to that of FLLD students, then this course is not for you and you will not do well in this course.

Required Materials: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (the first book in English). Names in the Harry Potter Books: Etymology and Word Play.

Supplemental Materials: All seven Harry Potter books, all eight DVDs. Before taking the course, students should have either read all seven books (either in English or Chinese) or watched all the films as the vocabulary lectures and the essays will be based on all the materials. However, more time will be spent on the first three books/videos.

Materials we will use in class, such as PowerPoint slides, will be uploaded to our class e-learning site (Moodle).

Procedure: Some of the time, your teacher will bring to class material to listen to and sheets with comprehension questions to answer or fill in the blanks. We will also spend some time looking at the vocabulary and cultural background from excerpts of the books and videos. You will have to discuss what you see on video or follow-up by creating role plays and giving oral reports. You will be asked to write three essays based on the materials. All these materials were made for native speakers, so your listening will be challenged, but I think you'll have fun, too.

Grading: You should be present and should participate every week. Whenever we have activities in class, your participation will be evaluated. The assigned activities, such as reports, role plays, essays, and quizzes, will, of course, receive definite grades. Quizzes will be based either on the previous week's lecture or on listening to an excerpt of a scene from one of the films (comprehension questions or fill in a cloze). If you come and participate and complete the assignments adequately, you should be able to pass the course.

Calendar

September 9	Introduction to the course; Lecture 1 family.
September 16	Lecture 2 places; Lecture 3 classmates
September 23	Read Stone 1-5; Video 1-5.
September 30	Student Role Plays (5%); Lecture 4 Hogwarts and teachers.

October 7	Read Stone 6-10; Video. Essay 1 due (10%).
October 14	Listening Quiz 1 (5%); Lecture 5 creatures and objects.
October 21	Read Stone 11-14; Video.
October 28	Read Stone 15-17; Video
November 4	MIDTERM (20%).
November 11	Student Group Reports (5%)
November 18	Finish Group Reports; Lecture 6 on Chamber; Essay 2 due (10%).
November 25	Listening Quiz 2 (5%); Lecture 7 on Chamber.
December 2	Rowling interview.
December 9	Lecture 8 and 9 on Prisoner.
December 16	Lecture 10 on Goblet; Lecture 11 on Phoenix.
December 23	Listening Quiz 3 (5%); Lecture 12 on Prince; Hallows
December 30	Student Role Plays (5%) Essay 3 due (10%)
January 6	FINAL (20%)