

Language Skills with Harry Potter

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Mon 1:20 – 3:10, HSS, C412

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 or better than 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).

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 book/video.

Materials we will use in class, such as **PowerPoint slides**, will be uploaded to our class e-learning site (**eLearn, not iLMS**) and links will be given to **videos**.

Procedure: Some of the time, your teacher will bring to class material to **listen** to and sheets with **comprehension questions** to answer or to 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 read in Book 1 (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone) and see on the videos. You will create **role plays** and give **oral reports** and also **write two out-of-class essays** based on the ideas in the books. All these materials and activities were made for native speakers, so your listening and speaking skills will be challenged, but I think you'll have fun, too.

NOTE: If the virus becomes more serious in the spring semester and we have to do lessons from home. We can do most of these assignments through distance learning, although we will have to adjust quizzes and exams. Since we have two Monday holidays this semester, you will do class assignments from home using e-learning or other electronic means.

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 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. Percentage grades for each of the required activities are given below in the calendar.

Calendar

This calendar is subject to minor change if some activities have to run into the following class.

Feb. 13	Introduction to the course (read syllabus); Some general questions about Harry Potter; Lecture 1 Harry's family. Homework: Read Stone 1-5; Watch accompanying Video clips.
Feb. 20	Lecture 2 Places; Lecture 3 Required Textbooks; Lecture 4 Weasley Family. Homework: Read Stone 6-10; Watch accompanying Video clips.
Feb. 27	HOLIDAY Do at home: Listen to J.K. Rowling interview (link on e-learn, also transcript and key questions).
March 6	Discuss Chapters 1-5; Lecture 5 Classmates; Lecture 6 Hogwarts Places; Lecture 7, Hogwarts Professors. Give out role plays.
March 13	Student Role Plays (5%).
March 20	Discuss Chapters 6-10. Lecture 8 Creatures; Lectures 9 Objects. Read Stone 11-14; Video, discuss March 27.
March 27	Listening Quiz 1 (5%); Discuss Stone 11-14. Lecture 10 English Names. Lecture 11 History English Vocabulary. Read Stone of 15-17, Video. Discuss April 10.
April 3	HOLIDAY
April 10	Discuss Stone 15-17. Preparation for Midterm. Give out group report topics.
April 17	MIDTERM (25%).
April 24	Lectures 12 and 13 on Chamber. Do at Home: Listen to A History of Magic (link and key questions on e-learn). Essay 1 due (10%).
May 1	Student Group Reports (10%)
May 8	Finish Group Reports. Lecture 14 on Prisoner.
May 15	Listening Quiz 2 (5%); Lecture 15 on Prisoner.
May 22	Lectures 16 and 17 on Goblet.
May 29	Lectures 18 and 19 on Phoenix; Essay 2 due (10%).
June 5	Student Role Plays (5%) Lecture 20 on Prince and Deathly Hallows
June 12	FINAL (25%).

Stone = Harry Potter and the Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone

Chamber = Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Prisoner = Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Goblet = Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Phoenix = Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Prince = Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince

Hallows = Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

