

Language Skills with Harry Potter

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TIME: 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 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 or higher, 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). For videos, the URL is provided.

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 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 we do not have enough class time to go through all the lectures in 16 weeks, you can access all the lectures on eLearn. There are the PowerPoint slides with audio. You can also use them for review before exams.

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.



Use of A1: The two out-of-class essays should be based on your own ideas. If you use added materials to back up or to supplement your ideas, please at the reference(s) at the end of your essay.

For the group reports, you will have to do some outside research. Please add the references/ URLs within or at the end of your ppt files.

Calendar

NOTE: We will attempt to follow this calendar, but sometimes we may get a little behind or even a little ahead. Unless something unusual happens, the activities will not change.

Feb. 19	Introduction to the course (read syllabus); About teacher; Some general questions about Harry Potter; Lecture 1 Harry's family; Lecture 2 places. Homework: Read Stone 1-5; Watch accompanying Video clips.
Feb. 26	Lecture 3 Required Textbooks; Lecture 4 Weasley Family; Lecture 5 Classmates; Lecture 6 Hogwarts Places. Homework: Read Stone 6-10; Watch accompanying Video clips; Out of Class: Listen to J.K. Rowling interview (link on e-learn, also transcript and key questions).
March 4	Discuss Chapters 1-5; Lecture 7, Hogwarts Professors; Lecture 8 Creatures; Lectures 9 Objects. Homework: Read Stone 11-14, Watch videos. Give out role plays.
March 11	Student Role Plays (5%); Discuss Chapters 6-10.
March 18	Discuss Chapters 11-14. Read Chapters 15-17 and watch videos.
March 25	Listening Quiz 1 (5%); Lecture 10 English Names. Lecture 11; History of English Vocabulary. Homework: Essay 1 due April 15 (10%).
April 1	Discuss Chapters 15-17. Preparation for Midterm.
April 8	MIDTERM (25%).
April 15	Lectures 12 and 13 on Chamber; Lecture 14 on Prisoner. Do at Home: Listen to A History of Magic (link and key questions on e-learn).
April 22	Student Group Reports (10%).
April 29	Finish Group Reports.
May 6	Lecture 15 on Prisoner; Lectures 16, 17 on Goblet.
May 13	Listening Quiz 2 (5%); Lecture 18 on Phoenix.
May 20	Lecture 19 on Phoenix; Lectures 20, 21 on Prince; Hallows.
May 27	Student Role Plays (5%).
June 3	FINAL (25%). Essay 2 due at a later date (10%).

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

