



ENS 3C05

Námsáætlun / Syllabus - Vorönn / Spring term 2023

Kennari / Teacher:

Sólrún Inga Ólafsdóttir

Netfang / E-mail:

solrun.olafsdottir@borgo.is

Lýsing / Course description:

The main focus is on critical thinking, creative, reflective, analytical, and academic writing, the theme “the dark side of human nature” and expanding advanced vocabulary (TOEFL/SAT) for academic purposes. Students explore literary forms such as the novel, short stories, films and documentaries connected to the dark side discussion. Various other assignments and teaching methods are meant to improve reading, listening, writing, speaking, and critical skills and improve vocabulary. All assignments should be handed in on INNA on assigned dates. All important information, files and video links will be on INNA (www.inna.is).

Students are required to use English all the time in the classroom.

Þekking, leikni, hæfni / The aim of this course is to help students to...

- ◆ gain a general overview of and reflect on the theme “the dark side of human nature”
- ◆ demonstrate continued development in writing correct and sophisticated English
- ◆ read, critically analyse, and interpret fiction (novels, short stories and films) and non-fiction (articles and documentaries)
- ◆ develop further argumentative writing and speaking skills
- ◆ use English in a creative way
- ◆ promote clear, coherent, confident, and effective communication in class

Námsmat / Course evaluation:

Students are expected to read all assigned texts by the due date, and with an eye towards intellectual engagement in class. They are expected to contribute actively to discussions.

Work in the course will include:

1. **School paper (9%)**
2. **Book quizzes (21%)**
3. **The dark side in films – group presentation (9%)**
4. **Oral exam on “dark side films“ adapted from novels and current “dark side“ global issues (8%)**
5. **Formal in-class essay (10%)**
6. **Vocabulary quiz 1 (7.5%)**
7. **Vocabulary quiz 2 (7.5%)**
8. **Creative project – group work (8%)**
9. **Journals and class assignments (20%)**

Námmsgögn / Course material:

- ◆ *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini
- ◆ *Lord of the Flies* – William Golding
- ◆ *The Stanford Prison Experiment* film
- ◆ *Lord of the Flies* film (1990 version)
- ◆ *The Kite Runner* film
- ◆ + TV episodes and documentaries
- ◆ Quizlet (www.quizlet.com) for studying vocabulary

More detailed information about the assignments:

1. School Paper (9%)

Students write and publish one school paper together during the term. Every student is required to hand in two A4 pages (about 300 words each) on various material, depending on their talents and interests, for example on:

- ◆ School issues
- ◆ The dark side of human nature in history (or today)
- ◆ The other side / processed interview, **not Q&A**– an interview with a student or an employee of the school.
- ◆ Free expression – poetry, short stories, cartoons, hot topics, etc...

2. Book quizzes (21%): There will be 7 short quizzes on assigned chapters from the two novels we are reading in this course. All of them count equally much and most of them have only multiple-choice questions.

3. The dark side in films – group presentation (9%) (2-4 students, or solo, if you prefer) focuses on films which present the dark side of human nature in one way or another. The group will decide on a film, watch it together (if possible), and present the most intriguing parts of it, both by talking about the events (main focus on the dark side of human nature) and showing clips from the movie.

4. Oral exam on “dark side” films adapted from novels and current “dark side” global issues (8%): Students watch one film that they choose from a list provided by teacher on film adaptations from novels that represent the dark side of human nature in various forms. Also, they choose one CURRENT “dark side” global issue to discuss and connect the discussion to the dark side of human nature. Level of English will count 30% and answers to analysis questions 70%.

5. In-class essay on either *The Kite Runner* or *Lord of the Flies* (10%): The **formal essay** is a short in-class essay about one of the novel’s main characters and the theme “the dark side of human nature.” The essay will be evaluated for content (including development and maturity of thought), organization, expression, and the conventions of Standard English.

6. There will be two **vocabulary quizzes** (counting **7.5%** each) from the vocabulary books *Vocabulary Cartoons: SAT Word Power 1 & 2* (mnemonics designed for learning new words from SAT/TOEFL lists). The vocabulary will be presented and practised in class and on www.quizlet.com

7. The creative project (8%) is an end-of-the-term group project (or solo, if you prefer) in which 2-4 students select their own creative way of dealing with and presenting some of the ideas and material covered in the course. Some ideas are, for example: News reports about LOTF (either newspaper articles with pictures or a news story on TV), film script based on a chapter from the either of the novels, cartoon/comic book based on the films/novels/short stories, an informative trailer or Tiktok video covering the basics of the course (perhaps trying to lure other students into choosing the course (or warning against it), a radio play based on some of the fiction covered in the course, a website, a book cover introducing the course with words from the editors and reviews from diverse media), songs or poems about the dark side theme or some other material covered in class, a board game based on some of the material (or some other form of game, e.g. quiz show), etc... Grading is based on creativity, language, effort and how successfully the project is linked to the course material.

9. Journals and class assignments (20%): Students hand in **journals** (200-300 words each) on various topics (mainly creative ones), most of them connected to the material covered in the course. A new topic will be introduced every second week. Students are welcome to use the space at the end of each journal to provide feedback to the teacher and/or ask questions concerning the course.

Class assignments include various forms of class interaction, participation in class discussion, brief in-class presentations, informal in-class writing assignments, and workbook assignments from the two novels. To get the most out of the course, work hard, take part, ask questions, discuss the material, and help with creating a positive learning environment.

Aðrar mikilvægar upplýsingar / Other important information:
Make-up exams and assignments (due to illness or other reasons *documented in INNA*):

A student that becomes ill and consequently cannot take an exam or hand in an assignment has to make up for that in the next English class, or (in special cases) contact the teacher beforehand for further information about the next step. If a student misses a quiz, he or she takes two quizzes the following week in order to catch up with the rest of the class. Sometimes the teacher will give permission to take a short quiz (never a vocabulary quiz, though) at home, but always ask for permission first. There are no **graded** make-up exams or assignments at the end of the term. *Exceptions must be requested before the due date. Due dates are provided well in advance.* Good communication with the teacher is always key 😊

Plagiarism (the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own) will result in the grade zero for the plagiarized assignment.

Students are required to bring a laptop to every class and use English all the time in the classroom.

If you have any concerns or questions during the course, feel free to stop your teacher after class or send an e-mail (solrun.olafsdottir@borgo.is). Students with special learning disabilities or considerations are encouraged to talk to the teacher at the beginning of the semester.

Vika	Dags.	Námsþættir	Námsmats-þættir
1	5.-6. janúar	Getting to know the course and each other. Journal 1	Journal 1%
2	9.-13. janúar	Journal 2 Watch a TV episode about a social experiment Class assignment 1	Journal 1% + Class 1%
3	16.-20. janúar	Read chapters 1-7 in <i>The Kite Runner</i> (quiz 1) Class assignment 2	Quiz 3% Class 1%
4	23.-27. janúar	Read chapters 8-11 in <i>The Kite Runner</i> (quiz 2) Watch the film <i>The Stanford Prison Experiment</i> (122 min) Journal 3 + Class assignment 3	Quiz 3% Journal 1% + Class 1%
5	30. jan- 3. febrúar	Read chapters 12-21 in <i>The Kite Runner</i> (quiz 3) Class assignment 4	Quiz 3% Class 1%
6	6.-10. febrúar	Read chapters 22-25 in <i>The Kite Runner</i> (finish the book– quiz 4) Journal 4 Start watching the film <i>The Kite Runner</i> (128 min)	Quiz 3% Journal 1% <i>Skóhlífadagar: 8-9 February</i>
7	13.-17. febrúar	Read chapters 1-4 in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> (quiz 1) Journal 5 + Class assignment 5	Quiz 3% Journal 1% Class 1% <i>Vörðuvika I</i>
8	20.-23. febrúar	Read chapters 5-8 in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> (quiz 2) Class assignment 6	Quiz 3% Class 1% <i>Vorannarhlé: 24 and 27 Feb</i>
9	28. febrúar- 3. mars	Read chapters 9-12 in <i>Lord of the Flies</i> (quiz 3) Class assignment 7 (Freyja Sól, trainee teacher)	Quiz 3% Class 1%
10	6.-10. mars	Journal 6 In-class essay on either <i>The Kite Runner</i> or <i>Lord of the Flies</i> Class assignment 8 (Freyja Sól, trainee teacher)	Journal 1% Essay 10% Class 1%
11	13.-17. mars	Journal 7 Class assignment 9 Work on dark side presentation	Journal 1% Class 1%
12	20.-24. mars	Vocabulary quiz 1 Present “Dark side in Films”	Quiz 7.5% Presentation 9% U & Ú: 21 March

		Work on school paper	Varða II
13	27.-31. mars	Work on school paper Watch the 1990 (90 min) movie version of <i>Lord of the Flies</i> Journal 8	Journal 1% Articles 9% <i>Valdagur: 28 March</i> Varða II continued
14	3.-11. apríl	PÁSKALEYFI – EASTER BREAK	
15	12.-14. apríl	Journal 9 Submit school paper articles	Journal 1% Articles 9%
16	17.-21. apríl	Work on creative project and prepare for Vocabulary quiz 2 Class assignment 10	Class 1% <i>Sumardagurinn fyrsti: 20 April</i>
17	24.-28. apríl	Oral exam Work on creative project	
18	1.-5. maí	Oral exam Work on creative project Journal 10	Oral exam 8% Journal 1% Dagur verkalýðsins: 1 May
19	8.-12. maí	Vocabulary quiz 2 Present creative project	Quiz 7.5% Project 8%
20	15.-16. maí	Finish presenting creative project	Síðasti kennsludagur/ Varða III

Tímaáætlun er sett fram með fyrirvara um nauðsynlegar breytingar / This plan is subject to change