

Advanced English: Creative writing in English

Laura Lanzone

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This course is meant for students of the advanced C1 level. Theme-based language classes aim at developing written and oral skills through the study of a specific topic.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week course that introduces students to creative writing.

The three main objectives of this course are:

- Introducing students to different literary genres that will help identify their preferred style and strengthen their overall writing skills
- Guiding students through the process of writing then reading alone or in groups/acting out the piece
- Expanding students' language skills in English (writing is not the only skill which will be exercised as each student will have to present their work orally on a regular basis).

Background

Students at Sciences Po are mostly required to write essays in English but rarely get to explore other types of writing. This is the *raison d'être* of this course. Some of them might have a passion for reading. We will explore all kinds of genres and hopefully encourage them to read and write more.

Course Description

The classes will be organized around different themes linked to literature or various literary genres. We shall study excerpts from novels which are character-driven rather than plot-driven before tackling mystery novels. From clues to revealing the information, will you solve the case? We will then focus on horror novels (with ghosts, vampires, werewolves, etc.) which evoke the sense of dread, fictions which explore conflicts, conjure up emotions between people before studying excerpts from a Bildungsroman (what does it mean to become an adult?). We shall highlight dystopian novels which speculate about the future, introduce political criticism and explore contrasts (time travel, space, futuristic societies, etc.). Finally, we shall focus on historical fiction (find the right context and sound real to your readers) and uchronia (try your best at imagining what if?).

During the final class the students will evaluate the quality of their own productions and establish their preferred piece(s).

Organization

Activities will cover the four language skills:

- Speaking: presentation in class, discussion/debate
- Writing: short writing exercises in class as a warm-up, one longer exercise in relation to the week's theme
- Listening: audio and video documents related to the week's theme (author, genre, literary texts, etc.)
- Reading: preparation and research will include selecting one or several extracts for each week's theme.