esade

Winners, Rascals and Misfits: Questions of Character

UGRA_014623

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	2
Teacher responsible	Pastor Olives Clara - clara.pastor1@esade.edu

Course Goals

During this course we will work on:

· Identfying the themes in the fictional works, including main action, context and author's intent.

· Analyzing the characters' motives and actions as well as the consequences of these for them and the people around them.

· Applying critical thinking to works of fiction. That is, using them to widen our experience of human nature and to sharpen our observation skills of human behaviour.

· An important aspect of this course is learning to put one's ideas in order and to express them intelligently in front of the group. This is an essential tool for any student that aspires to a position of responsibility as well as for being a valuable member of team work.

Previous knowledge

No previous knowledge required.

Prerequisits

None.

Description

Course contribution to program

Fictional representations provide invaluable insight into different types of human behavior, as well as a fertile ground for asking questions regarding character. For instance: What motives do this character's actions reflect? Are these "good' goals" Fiction also allows us to exercise our capacity for figurative thought. That is, to imagine different situations which we may relate to or not, but that on close reading raise questions about our own hypothetical behavior. Such as: How do I value this character's actions? How would I have acted in such a situation? We will devote some time in our discussions to our notions of "fit" and "unfit", in relation to our idea of success.

Learning how to read people's actions is a key aspect of becoming a good manager. It is what allows one to lead with intelligence and without violence, to enhance cooperation rather than confrontation. Reading

(good) fiction is an excellent practice field for analyzing character and training this skill.

Short description

In this course we will read and discuss several works of short fiction by contemporary authors, including Joseph Conrad, F.S. Fitzgerald, Vladimir Nabokov and Wallace Stegner. The title responds to the idea that

our notions of success and failure and of exemplary and censurable action are often diffuse and certainly questionable. The professor will provide all the background you need for understanding and forming your own views on

the fictional works we will be analyzing. The workload will consist in doing the assigned readings and preparing for class discussion.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Attendance and class participation	Retake and ordinary round	30.00%
Quizzes/tests	In-class quizzes and presentations	Retake and ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project	Final paper	Retake and ordinary round	40.00%

PROGRAMS

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
   BBA20 Year 1 (Optative)

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
   BBA23 Year 1 (Optative)

DBAI23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
   DBAI23 Year 1 (Optative)