

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Name: Communication and Pronunciation Techniques III LM-1471	Requisites: LM-1361, LM-1362, LM-1363
Credits: 3	Co-requisites: None
Schedule: 4 hours / week in-class work 8 hours / week out-of-class work	Type: Plan de Estudios B.A. in English and B.A. and Profesorado in English Teaching 16 weeks
Level: Fourth year	VII
Professor: Kenneth Rodríguez Pérez	Email: <a href="mailto:Kenneth.rodriguez_p@ucr.ac.cr">Kenneth.rodriguez_p@ucr.ac.cr</a>
Schedule: Fridays 8:00 – 12:00	Office Hours: M- 15:00 – 17:00

**I. DESCRIPTION**

LM-1471 is a required fourth-year course that is designed to develop students’ ability to discuss analytically, fluently, and effectively a variety of topics of social, cultural, and/or economic interest. The purpose of this course is to introduce fourth-year students to advanced film analysis. This course requires students to think critically about noncommercial and/or independent movies. It also examines the elements of film form such as mise-en-scene, sound, and color, among others to hone students’ skills in analyzing how these elements build meaning. These and other terms will be applied to analyze, describe and interpret films in both in-class discussions and presentations. Students must also apply oral skills acquired in previous courses.

*Mediación Virtual might be used as a tool to keep information organized and upload videos, documents, and resources for students’ reference.*

## II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Increase English fluency as well as appropriate grammar structures and further develop analytical skills through the discussion of specific topics of social, cultural, and/or economic interest as manifested in selected readings and films.

## III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the students will:

1. Detect and correct their phonological and syntactical errors.
2. Apply knowledge concerning speech patterns in speeches, class discussions, and/or presentations.
3. Be able to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transcribe high-frequency and topic-related words.
4. Develop listening skills through an immersion into the specific native language environment offered by each film and comprehend different English accents and idiomatic expressions routinely used in films.
5. Analyze the interaction between linguistic and paralinguistic elements (e.g., facial expressions and body movements) and base, in part, their interpretation of discourse on their readings of those paralinguistic elements that make up the global communicative context.
6. Recognize the general components of an artistic film (e.g., symbols, character development, conflict, and denouement) of a controversial topic.
7. Discuss a particular artist's moral and ethical values—the artistic worldview or *Weltanschauung* of the visual work of art—as manifested through the ideological structure of a film.
8. Articulate their thoughts about a particular film through a cogent, coherent, well-organized presentation that avoids mere plot summary and focuses instead on an in-depth analysis of a film's specific ideological content as reflected in the film's symbolic and formal properties.

#### **IV. CONTENT/TOPICS**

1. Speech Patterns: Rising-Falling Intonation, Rising Intonation
2. Definition of Artistic Versus Commercial Movies (maturation of the self, the melodramatic movie, symbols, characterization, setting, and any other related topic)
  - a. General introduction to film analysis: terminology, concepts, subjective reactions of the film, creative design, story structure, visual design, camera work, and sound.
  - b. Narrative and genre
  - c. Mise-en-scene
  - d. Sound
  - e. Symbols
  - f. Color
3. The Individual and Society: the psychology of films
4. Interpersonal Relations: the psychology of films

#### **V. METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES**

Students will be required to work individually and in groups to carry out a variety of tasks. Class time will be used to discuss and analyze both the reading and film assigned for that specific date. Students will have the opportunity to communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in oral forms appropriate to the discipline. The professor will guide the students in the discussion and ensure the participation of all the students. Students will participate in a previewing session (e.g., glossary, questions, and a brief synopsis of the film) and a post-viewing discussion of the film where analysis of the artistic and select linguistic components (e.g., idiomatic expressions, accents) of the film, and the attendant reading, if used, will be explored. Throughout the semester, the students will participate in any kind of oral communication technique studied in previous courses such as group discussions, debates, or speeches to reflect on assigned films and readings. Given the nature of this course, the students must fully prepare themselves prior to class and participate actively in class discussions.

Communication will be done synchronously in the classroom. Mediación Virtual will be used as a tool to keep information organized and upload videos, documents, and resources for students' reference.

## VI. EVALUATION

Oral evaluation #1	10%
Oral evaluation #2	10%
Exam I	30%
Exam II	30%
Quizzes: <i>announced or unannounced</i> (minimum 3)	20%

## VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLASS RULES

- The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols included in the 2005 version will be used in this course.
- In this course, students will be required to prepare a thorough self-assessment evaluation. The students will listen to the recording of their presentations and analyze them carefully. This self-assessment must be typed. Students must listen to their recordings and type every mistake made. For example, if there were vocal fillers in their presentations, their evidence will be the ones they make: uh, um, aha, em, etc. (see self-assessment sample in the anthology for specific guidelines). The main goal of this activity is to improve the students' overall performance.
- Quizzes (announced or unannounced) may include vocabulary, pronunciation, theory, transcriptions, self-assessments, presentations, research, and any other content or technique studied in class or assigned by the professor)
- Oral presentations and exams will be recorded. Students are responsible for recording the audio of every oral evaluation to be used for their self-assessment quiz.
- Tribunal exams will evaluate new movies in order to apply the strategies and theory learned throughout the semester. These tests will be graded by all the professors teaching the course. The tests will be recorded.
- In addition to the standard tribunal exams (I and II), students will be asked to participate in class discussions and deliver two oral presentations during the course of the semester. Each

presentation will be delivered before each exam. These presentations should be based on an analysis of a specific element in a movie (e.g. the development and maturation of a character, the interaction between two characters, a repeated phrase, a symbol or motif, the use of irony, a sequence of scenes, among others).

- Students may use notes (index cards, not a sheet of paper) for their presentations. But please observe that the notes are to be used judiciously; they are meant to be a guide, not a text. In other words, students must not read their presentations from a prepared set of notes. Please note that *material from the Internet* is a form of cheating (i.e., plagiarism). Merely going to the internet and downloading material and then reciting that material in front of the class is *not* considered a presentation. **If students read, they will automatically receive a grade of 5 or below. This will also apply to the memorization of the content.**
- Students must watch all the films to be able to be ready for the corresponding analysis. The movies chosen may change at any time; **if students cannot see one of them during the time allotted, it is their responsibility to make arrangements on their own to watch it.** The film showings constitute what normally would be considered laboratory time.
- No interruptions or late arrivals will be permitted during presentations, and there will not be any make-up tests or presentations unless there is a valid justification (health problems or death of close family members; check “Reglamento de Régimen Académico Estudiantil, Capítulo VI, artículo 24, de las normas de evaluación”).
- Cell phones and any other electronic device **must always be kept off and put away** as mandated by the University regulations.

## VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bordwell, D. & Thomson, K. (2008). *Film art: An introduction*. NY: McGraw-Hill.

Lewis, J. (2012). *Essential Cinema: An Introduction to Film Analysis*. MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Dale, P. & Poms, L. (2005). *English pronunciation made simple*. NY: Longman.

Lujan, B. (2004). *The American accent guide* (2nd ed.). Utah: Lingual Arts.

Orion, G.F. (2012). *Pronouncing American English: Sounds, stress, and intonation*. Boston: Heinle

Cengage Learning.

*\*Some other materials taken from different sources may also be part of the course (readings, videos, listening activities, and others).*

## **REGLAMENTO DE ORDEN Y DISCIPLINA DE LOS ESTUDIANTES DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA**

**Artículo 4.** Son faltas muy graves:

- g)** Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier índole.
- j)** Plagiar, en todo o en parte, obras intelectuales de cualquier tipo.
- k)** Presentar como propia una obra intelectual elaborada por otra u otras personas, para cumplir con los requisitos de cursos, trabajos finales de graduación o actividades académicas similares.

**Artículo 9.** Las faltas serán **sancionadas** según la magnitud del hecho con las siguientes medidas:

- a)** Las faltas **muy graves**, con suspensión de su condición de estudiante regular **no menor de seis meses** calendario, hasta por **seis años** calendario.
- b)** Las **graves** con suspensión de **quince días lectivos** a **seis meses** calendario.

Según la Oficina Jurídica de la Universidad de Costa Rica, el **plagio** es un tipo de **fraude** considerado muy grave, por lo tanto para su sanción se debe aplicar el Artículo 4, inciso g) del Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica y los procedimientos establecidos en los artículos del 11 al 20.

### Tentative Chronogram

<b>Week 1</b> March 15	Introduction to the course / Elements to carry out movie analysis. Diagnostic Test.
<b>Week 2</b> March 12nd	Elements to carry out movie analysis MOVIE #1 Movie analysis #1 Pronunciation Review
<b>Week 3</b> March 29 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER
<b>Week 4</b> April 5 <sup>th</sup>	MOVIE #2 Movie analysis #2 Movie analysis theory
<b>Week 5</b> April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Movie analysis #2 Pronunciation Movie analysis theory
<b>Week 6</b> April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Movie analysis #2 Movie analysis theory
<b>Week 7</b> April 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oral evaluation 1</b> (on any topic from the previous movies) <i>(Self-assessment 1: Ss hand in their self-assessment 1: Analysis of the following audios: Diagnostic 1, ICQ1, ICQ 2 and oral evaluation 1)</i>
<b>Week 8</b> May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Oral evaluation 1</b> (on any topic from the previous movies) <i>(Self-assessment 1: Ss hand in their self-assessment 1: Analysis of the following audios: Diagnostic 1, ICQ1, ICQ 2 and oral evaluation 1)</i>
<b>Week 9</b> May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oral Exam #1</b>
<b>Week 10</b> May 17 <sup>th</sup>	MOVIE #3 Pronunciation
<b>Week 11</b> May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Movie analysis #3 Oral Exam I: Feedback
<b>Week 12</b> May 31 <sup>st</sup>	MOVIE #4 Movie analysis #4

<b>Week 13</b> June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Movie analysis #4 Pronunciation
<b>Week 14</b> June 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oral evaluation 2</b> (on any topic from movies 3 and 4) ( <i>Self-assessment 2: hand in their self-assessment quiz 2: Analysis of the following audios: Exam 1, ICQ3, ICQ 4 and oral evaluation 2</i> )
<b>Week 15</b> June 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Oral evaluation 2</b> (on any topic from movies 3 and 4) ( <i>Ss hand in their self-assessment quiz 2: Analysis of the following audios: Exam 1, ICQ3, ICQ 4 and oral evaluation 2</i> )
<b>Week 16</b>	REVIEW-FEEDBACK
<b>Week 17</b> November 28-December 2	<b>Oral Exam # 2</b>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **Final grades:**
- **Exam I: WEEK 9**
- **Exam II: WEEK 17**
- **Ampliación Exam:**
- **Proficiency Exam:**