

CANG 9116 _Podcast as Literary Medium



C. Pacquing

Level: B2

Targeted skills: Oral comprehension, phonetic precision, grammar, literary analysis

Overview:

This course relies primarily on *Selected Shorts*, an American podcast and weekly public radio broadcast recorded live at Symphony Space in New York City, which presents short fiction read by iconic voices in today's world of film, theater and comedy. The short stories featured in the episodes of *Selected Shorts* provide rich material, not only for literary study, but also in the context of English-language acquisition. The course is organized around three axes, language production (written assignments, class participation), language comprehension (oral and written comprehension of short fiction), and literary analysis. Selected episodes of the podcast will be the subject of analysis and discussion with a particular emphasis on microscopic (phonetics, grammatical structures) and macroscopic (discourse, literature) lenses of linguistic analysis.

Objectives:

This course seeks to use *Selected Shorts* as a means to open discussions of literary analysis and language acquisition. The course will introduce and utilize the International Phonetic Alphabet as an instrument to review passages of short story recitation with a focus on phonemes that are typically challenging for intermediate and advanced learners of English. The text and recordings of the short stories will be used together to point out, in addition to phonemic correlation, specific language features such as vocabulary, sentence structure, idiomatic phrases, and grammatical elements. A brief overview of literary devices and approaches will be covered in order to provide students with tools to explore and comment on the short fiction covered in the class. By the end of the course, students will be expected to identify and reproduce a selection of English phonemes, identify elements of grammatical structure, demonstrate a mastery of idiomatic phrases and vocabulary covered in the course, and demonstrate comprehensible literary analysis of short fiction in English.

Grading:

20% participation: Active contribution class discussion will serve as a measure of language production and improvement.

40% continuous assessment: Reading quizzes and homework assignments.

40% final evaluation: Phonemic awareness, grammatical structure, literary analysis based on devices and methods covered in class.