

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
RIO PIEDRAS CAMPUS  
COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

<b>Title:</b>	Basic Skills in English II
<b>Code:</b>	INGL 3004
<b>Credits/hours:</b>	3 credits per semester (3 class hours + 1 hour lab)
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	English 3003

**Course Description:**

This is a course that fulfills the English requirement for the general education component of the bachelor's degree. This course further develops the basic linguistic and critical thinking skills introduced in English 3003. Emphasis is placed on the integration of skills for meaningful communication of ideas around interconnected themes. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are integrated and reinforced through the reading and analysis of short stories. The class discussion of these fictional selections provides the context to develop vocabulary, invite interaction, and engage students in sharing ideas through the writing of essays. Supplementary fictional works and language laboratory activities enrich these thematic units.

**General Objectives:**

**Consistent with the English Department's general objectives, by the end of the English 3004 course, the students will be able to**

1. communicate orally and intelligibly in a variety of academic situations
2. read and comprehend a variety of fictional texts with the aid of a dictionary
3. interpret and analyze written texts utilizing the elements of fiction
4. evaluate a text's relevance and validity by connecting it to personal experience
5. critically examine aesthetic, ethical, humanistic and cultural values underlying texts
6. demonstrate the ability to write unified and coherent four (4) paragraph essays that are intelligible to a non-Spanish speaker
7. collaborate in the inclusion of students with disabilities into all class activities
8. demonstrate the ability to use the library and computer technology for preliminary research

## Outline and time distribution

(Each professor will establish the specific topics and content of his/her course)

<b>Sample Topics</b>	<b>Time</b>
I Introduction: The Language of Fiction Essay vs. Short Story	9 hours
A. Presentation and discussion of the course outline. B. Introduction to the Elements of Fiction: C. Mini sagas: Putting elements of fiction into practice	
II. Words, Intentions and Actions in Conflict	15 hours
A. "Popular Mechanics" B. "The Judgment of Solomon" C. "The Circle of Chalk" D. "Use of Force" E. "Samuel"	
III. Away from Home: Immigrants	6 hours
A. "No Speak English" B. "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse"	
IV. Lessons from Nature	6 hours
A. "Love" B. "Gaston"	
V. Integrative Review: Bringing it all together	6 hours
A. Oral presentations integrating readings B. Student essays integrating all readings	
VI. Final Evaluations	3 hours
VII. Weekly language labs	15 hours
	TOTAL: 60 hours

## Instructional Strategies

This course is based upon collaborative discussion among students and teacher, therefore, oral participation is required. A variety of learning and assessment experiences are used to create an interactive environment to foment reflection, critical thinking and collaboration. Language and cross-disciplinary literature are integrated to

underscore the power of multiple perspectives in illuminating an object of study. Weekly language lab sessions complement classroom discussion by focusing upon needed listening and speaking skills, as well as building vocabulary and structures needed to engage in academic discussion.

### **Required Resources**

Regular classroom.  
Language laboratory.  
Educational materials (films transparencies, audiotapes, among others)  
Audio visual equipment

### **Evaluation Strategies**

Each professor will determine the specific weights and strategies.  
(Note: Differential evaluation for students with special needs will be provided when necessary.)

Sample

Oral collaboration	10%
Oral Report	10%
Literary Journal / Self Assessment Essay	10%
Exams	30%
Lab	20%
Written assignments	<u>20%</u>

TOTAL: 100%

### **Grading System**

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	59 – 0

### **Law 51 – Law 238**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Dean of Students' Office (Division for Persons with Disabilities), students who are clients of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to make arrangements for reasonable accommodations and for any necessary auxiliary equipment. Other students with special needs who require any kind of assistance or reasonable accommodations should also contact the professor.

## **Bibliography**

### **Suggested Texts:**

Textbooks that meet all the needs of this course at the students' reading and interest level are very difficult to find. We are constantly in search of readings for these students. Course packs approved by the Department's Curriculum Committee may also be used. Some of the texts used at this level are:

Gelshenen, R. & K. J. *Discovering Fiction: A Reader of American Short Stories: Student's Book 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

McConochie, J. A. (Ed.). *20<sup>th</sup> Century American Short Stories*. Rev. Ed. Volumen I, NY: Heinle & Heinle, 1995. ISBN: 0-8384-4850-X

*Longman Dictionary of American English with Thesaurus* and CD ROM, New York: Pearson, 2004.

Miller, S.K. *The Prentice Hall ESL Workbook*. New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006.

Robinson Fellag, L. *College Reading 2*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Saitz, R. L. and Stieglitz, F. B. (1993). *Short Takes in Fiction: Critical Thinking, Reading and Writing*, NY: Addison Wesley.

### **Internet Resources:**

Antonette, M. L.; Examining how the inclusion of disabled students into the general classroom may affect non-disabled classmates. Copyright 2003 Fordham Urban Law Journal. Sept. 2003 Retrieved from <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>

Heuman, J. E. Making a good law better: IDEA proposal stresses greater parental involvement and student inclusion. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) (includes related information) (Education). [http:// infotrac.galegroup.com](http://infotrac.galegroup.com)

### **World Wide Websites:**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/eslstudent.html>

<http://www.english-the-easy-way.com/>

<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

[http://marksesl.com/student\\_links.html](http://marksesl.com/student_links.html)

<http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/literature/main/fiction.htm>

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