Institute of Modern Languages

Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa w Koninie
(State School of Higher Professional Education in Konin) for the academic year of 2013/14

Courses for international students

SPRING SEMETER

Electives (choice depends on the student)

**Year I**

1. **Practical English Year I (roughly B2) – semester II (150) – 6 ECTS**
   
   Courses in pronunciation, practical grammar, conversation, integrated skills and writing aiming to help students improve their overall command of English.

2. **Issues in language acquisition and use – semester II (15 lectures/15 classes) – 6 ECTS**
   
   The main aim of the course is to familiarize students with key issues in first language acquisition, the learning and teaching of foreign languages, and language communication. It also aims to acquaint them with variables affecting these processes and the theoretical models seeking to explicate them, as well as to raise their awareness of the importance of cognitive styles, learner autonomy and language learning strategies. An important element will also be the introduction of the European Language Portfolio as a tool of reflection, self-development and self-evaluation.

3. **Descriptive grammar (phonetics and phonology) – semester II (15 lectures/15 classes) – 6 ECTS**
   
   The aim is to acquaint students with the rudiments of English descriptive phonetics and phonology, especially to the extent needed for practical teaching and learning of English pronunciation in the Polish EFL context, to introduce some basic concepts of English linguistics, and to serve as part of the integrated course in English descriptive grammar.
4. History of Great Britain and the United States – semester II (15 lectures) – 6 ECTS

The course has the following objectives: 1) to learn the basic facts and processes in British and American History, 2) to observe not only political but also social and cultural aspects of historical processes in GB and USA, and 3) to develop a general awareness of the trends and events which caused GB and USA to become such influential countries.

5. History of English and American Literature (part I) – semester II (15 lectures/15 classes) – 6 ECTS

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the history of the literature of the British Isles and the United States through reading and analyzing the most important literary works since earliest times (Old English poetry) to the period of Enlightenment and selected texts from the literature created in the 17th century in the United States. The students will learn to analyze and interpret literary works in the socio-historical context.

Year II

1. Practical English Year II (roughly B2+) – semester II (150) – 6 ECTS

Courses in pronunciation, practical grammar, conversation, integrated skills and writing aiming to help students improve their overall command of English.

2. Foreign language pedagogy – semester IV (45-15/30) – 6 ECTS

The main aim of the course is to link theoretical knowledge concerning theories of language, language learning and language use with everyday teaching practice as well as raising students’ awareness of the distinctive features of the Polish educational context. Therefore, the classes will primarily be devoted to acquainting students with key issues related to teaching target language subsystems, functions and skills as well as cultural aspects with the help of various techniques and procedures. Emphasis will also be laid on lesson planning and the choice of instructional materials and resources.

3. Descriptive grammar (syntax and morphology) – semester IV (30) – 6 ECTS

The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the rudiments of English descriptive grammar morphology and syntax from the Generative Grammar. Course contents:

6. **History of American literature (part I) – semester IV (30-15/15) – 6 ECTS**

   The course consists of lectures which constitute introduction to different literary periods as well as classes which focuses on selected literary works and their analysis. Students will be acquainted with colonial, postcolonial and romantic literature.

7. **British and American studies – semester IV (30) – 6 ECTS**

   The general purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the political, social, and cultural phenomena and processes that have taken place in Great Britain and USA. More specifically, there are following objectives: (1) to make students aware of the basics of American/British life and institutions by covering a selection of topics related to British and American culture, (2) to encourage an analytical and critical approach to studying cultural topics, (3) to encourage comparative or cross-cultural perspective on the issues discussed to practice all language skills. Whenever possible, it is intended treat the topics discussed in a comparative manner to show similarities and differences between GB and the US. Alongside the comparison between the English speaking cultures, students will also be encouraged to make cross-cultural observations by referring to Poland and its culture and institutions see objective 2 and 3 above). The first semester of the course is devoted to Great Britain; the second one deals with the USA.

8. **Business English – semester IV (30) – 6 ECTS**

   specialized Business English covering all the skills. Emphasis is placed on communication tasks which give you the opportunity to practice fluency and build confidence in business situations.

### Year III

1. **Practical English Year III (roughly C1) – semester II (75) – 6 ECTS**

   Courses in practical grammar, conversation and writing aiming to help students improve their overall command of English. Emphasis on academic language needed to write scientific papers in English on a variety of topics.

2. **Foreign language pedagogy – semester VI (30) – 6 ECTS**

   The objective of the course is to review the knowledge students acquired during the previous years as well as to acquaint them with different aspects of classroom dynamics, teachers’ classroom practices, syllabus design, selection of teaching materials, evaluation and the
concept of learner autonomy. Some emphasis will also be placed on teacher development in
the hope of making the trainees aware of the need to constantly monitor and improve their
classroom practices. Participants will also be familiarized with the concept of action research
as a means of identifying and solving problems they are likely to encounter in their teaching
practice. At the same time, the course will serve the purpose of assisting the interested
students in the preparation of their diploma papers.