

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki • School of English

*Department of English Literature*

*Lit6-488 Literature, Arts, and Culture in Education*

Fall Semester 2024-25

Thursday, 16:00-18:30, Room H, New Philosophy Building (ground floor)

INSTRUCTOR: *Prof. Katerina Kiti-Mitakou*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This workshop will focus on how literature, the arts, and cultural practices can be used as pedagogical tools employed in the educational process, and more specifically in the teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL). Literature, culture, and language will be considered not as isolated fields, but as naturally intertwined and engaged in an ongoing dialogue. Informed by modern theories of language as hybrid and dynamic and involved in a process of constant (re)construction, as well as poststructuralist approaches to literature and the arts that question their hegemonic nature, we will experiment on experiential and learner-centered educational methods that consider the cultural and personal background of students as a pivotal factor in the teaching process. Each week students will be called to engage actively in a number of creative activities, games, and improvisations related with the use of poetry, drama, fiction, film, etc. in the EFL classroom. In the final weeks of the semester, we will conduct 2-3 visits to schools, during which students will have the opportunity to implement the lesson plans they have devised in the classroom.

*Please note that Lit6-488 belongs to the list of the “Teaching for Special Purposes and Teaching Practice” elective courses required for the **Certificate for Pedagogical and Teaching Competence** (Student Guide p. 17).*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- ✓ to transfer learning in and through literature and the arts to language learning
- ✓ to familiarize students with modern experiential pedagogies
- ✓ to provide students with a set of tools which they will use in their own teaching
- ✓ to help them design a lesson plan for an EFL class
- ✓ to inspire students to study literature and language as an opportunity to understand and encourage an even more open and multicultural society

## ASSESSMENT

Class attendance as well as active participation in class activities and group work are of high importance in this workshop. As 60% of the classwork depends on live participation, it is essential that students attend regularly and do not miss more than 2 classes. It is significant to note, however, that the aim is *not* to make class attendance mandatory, but enjoyable, so that students look forward to coming to classes because they want to and not out of sheer obligation.

Mark also that since there will be no final exam, assessment will depend on in-class participation, reflective paragraphs after some of the workshops, one teaching session, and a written report on the teaching practice (approx. 2,000 words).

Each responsibility will count as follows:

**In-class participation and group work:** 30%

**Preparing LPs/Teaching/School Visits:** 30%

**Reflective paragraphs and final report** relating to the lesson plan: 40%

## WHO CAN REGISTER

This small workshop class is designed for *fourth- and third-year* students who are either already engaged in their teaching practice or will be in the next semester or academic year.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Registration for this course will *not* be done electronically. You may apply by filling in the [following form](#) asap and not later than **September 23**, stating the following:

- your **name, student number, and semester**,
- the semester in which you will be doing/have done/plan to do your teaching practice, and
- a short **statement of interest** (150-200 words) explaining why you think this course will benefit you. If you were involved in creative projects in the past, or have had any experience in the arts (dance, painting, theatre, film, etc.) or in creative writing, make sure you mention it in your statement as well. Prior experience is not a prerequisite, but if you have any, please say a few words about it.