

Book Club/ Reading Group

Tom Harcharick, Levels C1 –C2

For all those bookworms who would like to read a few great novels in the original, and improve their English at the same time.

Course expectations

Students will choose together a maximum of 4 literary works to read. They can be contemporary or classical, American, British, or from another culture, as long as they are written in English.

Once the reading list has been established, the group will set up a schedule to meet every 10 days or so, to discuss one of the books, which will have been read by that date. One member of the group chairs the meeting, and has the role of moderating the discussion. The chosen secretary for that meeting writes up notes taken during the session, which are compiled into a final document. Each student will also be expected to write one essay over the term.

The last session aims to compare the works with each other, setting them in context and drawing out common themes, or specific differences, through aesthetic awareness.

Learning goals

All the language skills will be worked on – reading and writing, speaking and listening. A writer’s perspective always brings illuminating insights on a culture and an era.

As well as analytical and communicative skills, skills necessary for emotional intelligence such as empathy (through understanding characters’ motives and different points of view) will be developed.

Autonomy

This club is student-led; students will decide together on the books to read, they will organize their schedule and “run the show”.

Evaluation will be based on fulfilling the goals specified at the start, commitment to the project, written and spoken work.

In the past books studied have included:

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

In Cold Blood - Truman Capote

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens

The Hours - Michael Cunningham

The Hitch-hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams

The Catcher in the Rye – JD Salinger