

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course aims to enhance students' English proficiency at the high-intermediate level. Students will be introduced to diverse topics that are relevant, engaging, and helpful to college life. Topics will include language learning, intercultural communication, hobbies, entertainment, education, career, and others. Students will be participating in all kinds of classroom activities involving four skills (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) in the first two teaching hours. For the third teaching hour, students are expected to complete a unit of listening practice through an on-line listening comprehension program under the instructor and teaching assistant's guidance.

COURSE REQUIREMENT

Students are required to:

- (1) Attend classes. Two (2) points will be deducted from the student's final grade for each absence that occurs without advance notification and teacher permission.
- (2) Actively participate in in-class activities, which will take the form of quizzes, question-and-answer sessions, group discussion, written reports, on-line listening comprehension program, and other formats. The class will be taught in English; students are encouraged to interact with the instructor and their classmates in English as well.
- (3) Complete three essays throughout the semester. (essay hunting, first draft, and final draft)
- (4) Complete the weekly listening practices from the on-line listening comprehension program (OLCP program).
- (5) Complete at least 5 reading practices from the on-line reading comprehension program (ORCP program) as homework assignment. Students will get 0.5 point of your final grade for completion of one extra unit of the reading practice.
- (6) Complete the assignments. Please be advised that the assignments may change. The announcement and email notification will be made under this circumstance.
- (7) Hand in the portfolio which contains your essay writings and all the other materials including the handouts distributed in the class and other written assignments.

CLASS POLICIES

Each incidence of absence without prior notification and permission will cost you 2 points of your final grade. Accruing more than five (5) absences will cause you to fail the course.

Class performance (10%)

Attendance (10%)

Essay writing (20%)

Portfolio (30 %)

Midterm Exam (15 %)

Final Exam (15 %)

Bonus (up to 5 %)

COURSE MATERIALS

(1) Selected book chapters from the books:

- Scott Miles (2007). *Essential Reading 3*, Student's book. Macmillan Education ELT
- Michael McCarthy & Felicity O'Dell (2008). *Academic Vocabulary in Use*. Cambridge University Press
- John M. Swales & Christine Feak (2004). *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*, Second Edition: *Essential Tasks and Skills*. University of Michigan Press/ESL; Second Edition edition
- Jeremy Harmer (2005). *Just Right Student's Book*. Langenscheidt ELT

(2) Selected articles and listening clips from the *New York Times*, NPR, the *Wall Street Journal*, and various university websites.

(3) On-line listening comprehension program (OLCP)

(4) On-line reading comprehension program (ORCP)

WEB-BASED LEARNING RESOURCES

- On-line dictionary

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

<http://oald8.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

Thesaurus.com <http://thesaurus.com/>

- Corpus resources:

COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) <http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

AWL (Academic Word List) <http://www.academicwords.info/>

Compleat Lexical Tutor <http://www.lextutor.ca/>

- On-line listening comprehension program (OLCP)
- On-line reading comprehension program (ORCP)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Time	Topic	OLCP/ORCP program
Week 1	Introduction	Orientation
Week 2	Language and culture around the world (I)	[Culture]
Week 3	Language learning	[Creativity_1]
Week 4	Social issue (I): Education and resource	[Education]
Week 5	Social issue (II): <i>Social Inequality</i> and <i>humanitarian</i> Understanding	[AIDS]
Week 6	Social issue (III): Environmental protection	[Climate change]
Week 7	Campus life (I): Interests, desires, and friends	[Movies]
Week 8	Campus life (II): The internet	[Technology]
Week 9	midterm	
Week 10	Campus life (III): Skills for success	[Success]
Week 11	Campus life (IV): Love and marriage	[Creativity_2]
Week 12	Food and Health (I)	[Food]
Week 13	Food and Health(II)	[Insomnia]
Week 14	Human civilization: City life 1	[City 1]
Week 15	Human civilization: City life 2	[City 2]
Week 16	Beauty of the universe	[Astronomy]
Week 17	Beauty of the human creation	[Architecture]
18 final	Final	