

Freshman English

Fall 2007

Instructor: 許文僊 Wen-Hsien Hsu (hsuwenhsien@ntu.edu.tw)
Classroom: Audio-Visual Building Rm 305
Class Hours: Thursday 3:30 PM – 6:20 PM

****** Starting 2002-2003 academic year, all freshmen at NTU need to fulfill the stipulated English proficiency requirement for graduation by taking the high-intermediate-level General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) by the end of their freshman year. If they do not pass the test, they may take the On-line English Program (OEP) courses for one year, or they may retake the test and pass it before they graduate. Students taking this Freshman English class, however, should not have false expectations that this class would be in any way similar to a GEPT-preparation course. Although students will be taking a GEPT practice test(s) in class sometime, GEPT preparation is **DEFINITELY NOT** the instructional objective of this particular course.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to help students improve proficiency in English by providing them with guidance and practice in the English language arts, with a primary focus on development of **reading and listening** abilities. This course also aims to develop students' critical thinking skills by requiring students to read and think critically about issues on a variety of topics, mostly related to recent or current events. Students are expected to participate actively in class activities, and work individually as well as cooperatively with classmates in pairs and small groups.

One goal of this course is to establish and maintain a positive learning environment based upon communication and mutual respect. It will be conducted in accordance with NTU's commitment to social justice and academic honesty. **NO CHEATING ALLOWED !!!**

**** Wholeheartedly, I welcome and thank you all for showing your interest in learning Freshman English by taking this course with me. I expect that every member in this class, who has chosen to be here, is willing to be a responsible participant. Taking a course is like making a commitment, and therefore, coming to class on time and every time is very important. However, if you have a tendency to cut classes or foresee a possibility of doing so, namely, you have difficulty coming to our class meetings on a regular basis throughout the whole semester, I strongly suggest that you reconsider whether you still would like to stay in this class. I specifically bring this to your attention because your grade will certainly suffer or you may even FAIL this course if you are unable to make the commitment. Please consider all the following course requirements very carefully and make your decision. I respect your decision and will treat you as an adult. As an adult, not only legally, but also biologically and intellectually, you should definitely take full responsibility for the consequences of your decision and behavior. ****

Grading:

1. **Attendance, punctuality, participation in class discussion and activities, and assignments**, including written assignments (e.g., learning reflection essays, task or work sheets, short talks, homework assignments from our regular or listening classes); group projects, which encompass (1) a role-play, (2) an oral report (including a presentation of the assigned article), along with a written study guide that gives an overview of the assigned reading(s)): **43 %**
2. **Peer evaluation (punctuality, responsibility, and contribution): 12 %**
3. **Review tests (3 Installments): 45 %**

Course Requirements:

**** Your learning attitude determines how much progress you can make in your English proficiency or in any learning task. It is therefore very important that you take the course requirements seriously and work hard to earn your grade.**

1. **Do your own assignments:** You are responsible for your own learning. **Copying is viewed as cheating, and you should never take the credit that you do not deserve.** Never copy from someone else's work or let anybody copy your own work. If you do so, you will not get any credit for the work; moreover, you will surely be penalized by losing points on your final grade.
2. **Late submission of assignments:** Late submission is not permitted in all cases but is only allowed under certain conditions. When late submission of a particular assignment is allowed, only **one-week extension** is granted, and **no late assignments will be accepted afterwards.**
3. **No make-up tests/installments or presentations:** You must complete your work before coming to class. If you miss the class or are late to class and thus miss any of the scheduled presentations, role-plays, or tests (installments), **no make-up presentations, role-plays, or installments will ever be given (which means you will get a "0" on what you have missed).**
4. **Attendance checking:** I check attendance almost every time, but **I do not need to check by calling out everybody's name.** Throughout the whole semester, you are allowed to have **one absence (or totally three class periods)** without penalty (**for whatever reasons, including sickness, emergency, celebration, gala, function, or any special occasion**). **Your grade is subject to reduction for any additional absences and/or lateness.** However, in the case of chronic illness or personal emergencies which require prolonged or frequent absences, the student should withdraw from this course and repeat it when circumstances allow for the fulfillment of course requirements.
5. **No "sneaking out" between classes or during class:** **DO NOT** ever "sneak out" and assume the instructor will not notice your uninformed absence. It is a great discourtesy and a serious violation of classroom etiquette to do so, and therefore, is absolutely not acceptable in this

class. You have the obligation to inform the instructor in person about your absence under all circumstances.

6. **Preview assigned reading(s) before class:** Being a university student means taking more responsibility for your own learning. The class is structured in a way that requires you to read the assigned course reading(s) before you come to our weekly class meeting(s). Given that this is your own learning, you should no longer expect the instructor to go through or explain each reading in details for you. Owing to the very limited time allotted for our Freshman English classes, we have to make the best use of our class time in order to provide a quality learning and teaching experience. The precious class time should be primarily devoted to discuss and tackle confusion over the course materials, and thus questions or opinions about the materials and related issues are highly welcomed in our class. **If you do not preview the assigned reading(s) before class, you are more likely to feel at a loss about what is going on in class.** On top of that, you will probably have a difficult time participating in our class discussion or even understanding the instructor's lecture and your classmates' presentations.
7. **No auditors allowed:** This course DOES NOT welcome anyone to audit or sit in. Do not bring or invite any of your friends, classmates, or visitors to class. This class is only for those who are officially enrolled.
8. **Be on-task and concentrate on what is in process in class.** Students enrolled in this class are required to abide by proper classroom etiquette. If one of the reasons that you are physically present in class is to do something unrelated to the on-going class activities (e.g., work on other course assignments, send text-messages to or talk to other people via cell phone, or read text unrelated to the class), **then this is not a right class for you to take.** Even during your classmates' presentations and role-plays, it is considered very ill-mannered, discourteous, and rude for the audience to do such things. The instructor also will feel very offended by students' off-task behavior. It is very important to be on-task and concentrate on what is in process in class.
9. **Follow the instructions to do your assignments and course projects.** Creativity is highly praised in this class, and flexibility is surely permitted in certain assignments but not in others. Specific written instructions in terms of **format and mechanics** given to certain assignments or course projects should be strictly followed or the assignments will be returned with no credit earned (**which means, "0" credit**).
10. **Never turn in assignments via email:** All out-of-class written work must be word-processed and double-spaced unless otherwise noted. **Do not turn in any of your homework assignments to the instructor via email.** You always need to turn in a **paper copy** of any of the written assignments.
11. **Always keep track of your own learning on your own initiative:** You are fully responsible for making up the course contents/assignments that you have missed due to absences or lateness. If you are absent or arrive late to class, the instructor is not responsible for keeping a copy of the course materials (e.g., handouts, assignments, etc.) for you or informing you of any homework assignments. It is a good idea to set up a contact with another member of the class who can get the handout(s) for you.

12. **Listening assignments:** We have a number of listening assignments, and the instructor will check the assignments on the scheduled due dates in class. Each group needs to turn in a USB flash drive to the instructor to record your listening assignments (The date to turn in the USB flash drive will be announced in class).

13. It is a requirement that **all cell phones and pagers be turned off during class time.**

Required Text: A course packet (TBA)

** Other additional course readings and related handouts will be provided by the instructor or fellow students.**

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

All the information listed below is subject to change if necessary. Students should keep track of any scheduling or content changes (such as installment dates and reading assignments) announced in class.

| Week | Date | Content | Reading Assignment |
|------|-------|---|--|
| 1 | 9/20 | - Introduction - Syllabus Overview & Course Requirements - Questionnaire | |
| 2 | 9/27 | - School Daze: Freshman Fears - GEPT Practice Test - Untruth and Consequences | |
| 3 | 10/4 | - Guidelines for Course Projects - Untruth and Consequences - Oral English Practice | |
| 4 | 10/11 | - Untruth and Consequences | |
| 5 | 10/18 | - Untruth and Consequences - Pillow Angel Ethics | Due: Unit 2 Study Guide |
| 6 | 10/25 | - Pillow Angel Ethics | Due: Unit 3 Study Guide |
| 7 | 11/1 | - Pillow Angel Ethics - What Drives You Nuts? | Due: Unit 4 - 7 Study Guides |
| 8 | 11/8 | - What Drives You Nuts? - Youth Gone Wired | - Campus-wide Midterm Exams (11/8-11/14) |
| 9 | 11/15 | - No Class | 11/15 Campus Holiday 11/16 GEPT On-line Registration Begins |
| 10 | 11/22 | - Youth Gone Wired | |
| 11 | 11/29 | - Youth Gone Wired - Love | 11/29 Deadline: GEPT On-line Registration |

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|----|-------|---|---|
| 12 | 12/6 | - Love - Should Couples Live Together First? | |
| 13 | 12/13 | - Should Couples Live Together First? | |
| 14 | 12/20 | - Should Couples Live Together First? - How to Get Out Alive | |
| 15 | 12/27 | - Should Couples Live Together First? - How to Get Out Alive | |
| 16 | 1/3 | - How to Get Out Alive | |
| 17 | 1/10 | - How to Get Out Alive - Wrap Up | |
| 18 | 1/17 | Campus-wide Final Exams | - Installment #3 - Good luck on your finals!!! |

Specified Text Format for All Written Assignments :

1. Body text is in “**Times New Roman**” font size 12, with 2 line spacing. First line in each paragraph should be indented by 1 cm.

* **Text format: 格式 → 段落 → 行距 → 2 倍行高**
2. Follow the default format (do not change the size of the margins).
3. Be sure to follow the step-by-step procedures before you turn in your written assignment:
 - 1) use a computer to type the assignment (use “**Word**”)
 - 2) type in your name, student ID number, and department
 - 3) use the spell-check function
 - 4) proofread and edit the text (self-correct all spelling and grammatical errors)
 - 5) check if you have followed the correct format
 - 6) print the assignment out
 - 7) turn in the paper copy of the assignment to the instructor on the scheduled due date