

SYLLABUS

Fall 2015

Course ID: Prep 030 2836
Prep 022 2833
Course Name: **English for Academic Purposes:**
Reading and Writing;
Listening and Speaking
Level: 5
Credit Hours: 12
Meeting Times: Wed, Fri @ 13:10 – 14:25, 14:30 – 15:45
Instructor: Roman Mamashev
Phone No: 0777-911-007
E-mail: roman.mamashev@gmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday @ 13:25 – 14:25

I. Texts & Materials

Core texts:

- Judy L. Miller, Robert F. Cohen, *NorthStar: Reading and Writing Level 5*, Third Ed., 2009
- Sherry Preiss, *NorthStar: Listening and Speaking Level 5*, Third Ed., 2009

Extra materials are to be either: distributed in class as handouts, or posted online (starting with Week 2).

II. Course description

This course is intended to develop your reading and writing skills and your academic research and study skills in preparation for university study. The course focuses on working with academic texts, building a strong vocabulary base, taking notes, participating in discussions, conducting research and reporting the findings.

This course is a blended course, with part of the instruction and learning happening online.

III. Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Read for main ideas and details;
2. Infer information not explicitly stated in the text;

3. Classify, organize and synthesize information from texts;
4. Support answers with information from texts;
5. Paraphrase and cite sources used for support of ideas in writing;
6. Evaluate presented information and create new ideas based on the readings;
7. Compose short (3-5-paragraph) essays that argue a particular point of view, give a definition, summarize readings, compare and contrast two ideas, and explain the cause and effect relationship.
8. Use English outside of the classroom to express ideas and beliefs and employ critical thinking in various areas of your lives;
9. Express complex thoughts using a higher level of language required for academic excellence;
10. Actively apply your classroom knowledge in the outside world;
11. Participate in discussions and write essays of a complex and sophisticated nature.

IV. Grading

Activity Grading*

Grades are given based on:

READING & WRITING:

Type of activity	Pts	Ttl
Classroom Activities	10*15	150
Home Assignments	10*15	150
Blogging/Reflection activity	10*14	140
Forum Activity	15*4	60
Glossary Entries	10*4	40
Vocabulary Tests	10*4	40
Achievement Tests	40*4	160
Writing Assignments	20*4	80
TOTAL		820

LISTENING & SPEAKING:

Type of activity	Pts	Ttl
Classroom Activities	10*15	150
Home Assignments	10*15	150
Audio Reflection	10*14	140
Conference	15*4	60
Glossary Entries	10*4	40
Vocabulary Tests	10*4	40
Achievement Tests	40*4	160
Group Project	20*4	80
TOTAL		820

Grade/Percentage Ratio:

A	94-100%	B-	77-79%	D+	60-63%
A-	90-93%	C+	74-76%	D	54-59%
B+	86-89%	C	68-73%	D-	50-53%
B	80-85%	C-	64-67%	F	< 50%

Shared Responsibility

Some activities will be graded based on:

1. Instructor evaluation
2. Peer evaluation
3. Self-evaluation

The criteria will be announced and/or discussed before the grading takes place. Thus, the Shared Responsibility principle will come into effect starting no earlier than the second week.

The activities with a shared grade will include:

1. Classroom activity
2. Online activity (Blogging included)
3. Project work
4. Home assignments (in part)

At the start of each week, you will receive a form with the list of students and the rubric with the evaluation criteria. These forms must be filled in during the week and submitted to the instructor on the last day of your week's classes.

More information on evaluating team projects will be discussed in class and posted on the e-course.

V. Course Expectations

We will strive to build a community where everyone is respected and accepted. Some of your activities will have a collaborative nature: a group project and presentation, online and classroom discussions. In all your communication, please be tactful and polite.

Online Access

Each student should have access to the Internet and must register for the Moodle e-course in the first week of classes. All class-related electronic communication will be done through Moodle messaging.

Attendance and Participation

No credit is given for being present, but being regularly late or passive affects your final grade. Every minute you are late for the class will be counted out of your class grade (thus, being 5 minutes late will become -5%).

It is also *your* responsibility to notify the instructor, the adviser and the office if you are going to miss a class because of an emergency (illness or other). This can be done via phone or email. *6 unexcused absences will result in an F for the course.* Your participation during the class will be graded collectively, as mentioned above, and it is your responsibility to work for the grade.

If you have a missed class because of an emergency, it is your responsibility to:

- a) Provide a document justifying your absence (medical certificate, etc.);
- b) Contact your instructor to arrange an extra assignment to make-up for a missing participation grade.

Unjustified absence does not qualify for a make-up. A zero received for a missed class is final.

Homework

Home assignments are an integral and important component of the instruction. All home assignments should be completed on time. If you miss, or do not understand, a home assignment, you must check with your instructor or with another student *promptly*. Below you will see the types of home assignments you will have during this course.

Assigned Readings

You are to read the assigned texts prior to coming to class. They are assigned for the week that follows to ensure the depth of classroom interaction and individual reflection. You are expected to look up unfamiliar words before coming to class.

Writing Assignments

During this semester, you will write several short papers (1-2 pages) to explore, summarize, explain, critique, or reflect on some of the issues raised in our texts. The topics and grading criteria for the writing assignments will be provided by the instructor on the e-course. Two papers you will write in class. Others will be submitted electronically through the Moodle site.

Online Forums

On our Moodle course site you will participate in 4 online forums, each dedicated to a particular subject. Online forums have several benefits.

First, they accommodate the students who need more time to reflect on issues raised in our classroom discussions. Next, online forums allow you to record your thoughts and go back to read what your classmates have said on a particular topic. Finally, this recorded discussion may help you generate ideas for your essays. When participating in online forums, you are expected to follow the rules of netiquette.

For each Forum, you need to make a post answering the questions and then comment on at least two other classmates' posts. Make your comments worth reading.

Group Project and Presentation

You will be placed in groups of four to work on a project and present it to the whole class. Specific instructions and grading criteria will be given on the Moodle course site.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted by the due date. No exceptions. *Late papers will not be accepted, and the grade for the writing assignment will be zero (F)*. Papers can be submitted electronically (preferred) or printed out and brought to class. The Moodle site will have the submission box for your assignments. All papers are to be typed, double-spaced in 12 pt. Times Roman typeface or 11 pt. Calibri with one-inch margins.

Cell Phones

All cell phones (including the instructor's) will be either turned off or set to "silent" for the duration of the class session. Failure to do so will affect your grade for the class (minus 10%).

Personal Issues

If you have any problems concerning the course material or the classroom instruction, you are encouraged to immediately discuss it with your instructor, or your advisor, outside of class time — during "office hours" (see course information).

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. All work submitted by a student must represent her/his own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. Any content that is referenced or has small amounts of material quoted should be cited using APA format. Images or other media used in projects should be original, used with permission, or come from public domain. You will find resources for the APA style and free media on our Moodle course site.

VI. Lesson Schedule*

Weeks	Topics	Reading Assignments** Listening Assignments**	Activities (for due dates, see e-course)
Weeks 1-4	Addictions	RW: My Time in a Bottle; Addiction LS: Interview with an Internet Addiction Counselor; Time to Do Everything Except Think	Forum 1: Addictions and Preventions Grammar: Past Conditionals and Wish Statements Writing: Reflection Paper Vocabulary test 1 Achievement test 1
Weeks 5-8	Lies and The Truth	RW: Looking for the Lie; There is Such a Thing as Truth LS: Interview with a Psychiatrist; Family Secrets	Forum 2: Can Lying be Ever Justified? Glossary 2 Grammar: Degrees of Certainty and Double Comparatives Writing: Comparison and contrast paragraph Vocabulary test 2 Achievement test 2
Weeks 9-12	Personality	RW: Gotta Dance; Kids Learn Poise Through Dance LS: Americans Are Getting Shyer; The Pollyanna Syndrome	Forum 3: Personalities and career choices Glossary 3 Grammar: Adjective Clauses Writing: Opinion essay Vocabulary test 3 Achievement test 3

Weeks	Topics	Reading Assignments** Listening Assignments**	Activities (for due dates, see e-course)
Weeks 12-15	Trends	RW: A Fable for Tomorrow; The Story of Silent Spring LS: The Tipping Point; Tipping Points in Fighting Crime	Forum 4: New Trends Glossary 4 Grammar: Adverb clauses and discourse connectors Writing: Cause and Effect essay Vocabulary test 4 Achievement test 4

* This schedule is subject to adjustments and changes. You will be notified beforehand.

** Online reading/listening assignments will be posted on the Moodle e-course.