

## SYLLABUS

Advanced English Conversation  
Instructor: Rob Whyte

### OUTLINE

This is a skills-based class for students with advanced English proficiency. You already know how to speak, listen and read to a high level. The focus of this class will be to continue language development and develop critical thinking skills in the English language.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives are as follows:

- 1) students will expand their vocabulary by developing a working knowledge of at least 300 new words through reading and self study;
- 2) students will improve fluency through regular pair work practice on a wide range of topics;
- 3) students will improve their critical thinking skills by learning and using 12 logical fallacies;
- 4) students will demonstrate their research and organizational skills by making a 5 to 10 minute presentation that includes a critical analysis of one current issues topic.

### METHODOLOGY

This is a student-centered, workshop style class. That means the teacher will spend a little time talking and the students will spend a lot of time speaking or working.

Students can expect to do a lot of pair discussion work along with individual tasks. There will be reading from the textbook along with extra material provided by the teacher. A variety of small in-class projects, puzzles and activities will be used to build vocabulary, improve fluency and increase general knowledge.

During the semester, students will research and deliver one oral presentation.

This presentation will be a proper research project which uses some of the skills and information covered in the class. Topics NOT suitable for a presentation include (as one example), "My summer trip to France."

### TEXTBOOK

Title: Quick Smart English Pre-Intermediate  
Authors: Rebecca Robb Benne with Joanne Collie  
Publisher: Compass Publishing

## GRADING

There will be two exams and two quizzes. The mid-term exam and final exam will be speaking tests. Each quiz will review the material studied in class and help prepare you for the exams. There will be an oral presentation. Final scores for the class will follow the university's grade distribution policy.

30% final exam  
30% mid-term exam  
20% quizzes, homework  
10% presentation  
10% attendance

I will post homework on my website. You will need to download and print this material. My website is [www.eslwriting.org](http://www.eslwriting.org).

## OTHER MATTERS

At the end of the semester, please do not ask me to change your grade because you have a special situation. You need a scholarship? You want to get a job? You want to go to graduate school? These are all good things. If you need a high score in this class, work hard, study hard and come to every class on time ready to learn. Unless I made a calculation error, I will not change your final score.

Every class, you will need 4 things: a writing tool (e.g. a pencil), a notebook, the textbook and a dictionary. Phone dictionaries are okay. Students who do not bring these learning tools to every class may not be satisfied with their final score.

Students who regularly fail to bring all four learning tools to class, or the homework, may be marked absent.

Attendance is very important for every student's learning. Please come to every class, and come on time. Students who are frequently late will be penalized: 2 lates = one absence. Students who are absent because of school or work related events will see their participation score negatively impacted.

## OFFICE HOURS

D570

Monday 12 – 1pm  
Friday 11 – 1pm  
Friday 5-6pm