

INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASS

Spring 2014
Professor Rob Whyte

This class gives you an opportunity to improve your English speaking skills. Your success will depend on your effort and participation. In this class you will learn the basic tools you need to express simple and complex ideas.

METHODOLOGY

Pair work and small group activities will consume most of our class time. The purpose of this format is to help students learn, remember and practice the words, sentence patterns and concepts presented in class. Students will be given many types of activities, including puzzles, pair work questions and topic sentences. To rapidly improve your speaking skills, we will use a tool called the *sentence block*.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this semester students will be able to:

- Produce common conversational styles, forms, and sounds.
- Make/respond to requests and follow/give directions
- Start and maintain a general conversation in many social situations.
- Learn at least 300 words and phrases.

TEXTBOOK

English Know How Student Book 1 Angela Blackwell & Therese Naber, Oxford University Press.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a midterm exam and final exam plus two quizzes. Final scores for the class will follow the university's grade distribution policy.

Midterm 30%
Final exam 30%
Quizzes 20% (2 quizzes)
Attendance 10%
Participation 10%

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 5-6pm, Thurs 12-1, Fri 12-1pm and 4-5pm

OTHER COMMENTS

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.

Contact

If you have any questions about the class work, feel free to email me at robbusan at yahoo.com.

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