

## **ENG128 ENGLISH SOPHOMORE CONVERSATION**

Fall 2015

Instructor: Rob Whyte BA, M.Sc

Office: D570

Office hours: TBA

### **INTRODUCTION**

This course builds on previous work by helping students improve their English communication skills to the high intermediate status, and beyond. 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 about a wide range of issues and current events.

### **OBJECTIVES**

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

- improve communication skills by learning common conversational forms and sounds;
- develop listening skills by completing in-class and homework listening tasks;
- sharpen conversation skills by learning and practicing standard sentence forms such as making/responding to requests and following/giving directions;
- develop general knowledge of world events and current topics by completing homework assignments and small group discussion activities;
- expand vocabulary knowledge by learning at least 200 words and collocations.

### **METHODS**

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 - in other words to improve fluency. Students will be given many types of activities, including puzzles, pair work questions and topic sentences.

### **TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

Touchstone 3, Cambridge University Press; 2 edition by Michael McCarthy, Jeanne McCarten, Helen Sandiford (units 7-12). Website content - check weekly - [www.eslwriting.org](http://www.eslwriting.org)

### **GRADES**

There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, two quizzes and a presentation. Final grades will follow the university policy (i.e. grade curves and limits). Please note: two lates = 1 absence.

attendance 10%

participation 10%

midterm 30%

final exam 30%

presentation 10% (world issues)

quizzes (2 x 5%)

## **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.