

Rob Whyte Freshman English Conversation Class, Spring 2016

Course Introduction

This is a practical course with lots of opportunities to practice speaking English on common conversational topics. The main objective is to improve fluency in spoken English. Fluency means speaking smoothly at a normal pace with good pronunciation.

Objectives

1. To improve fluency in general conversation.
2. To expand vocabulary (learn at least 200 words)
3. To solve problems and explain answers in English.

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 presented in class. Students will be given many types of activities, including puzzles, pair work questions and topic sentences. We will spend about 1-2 hours per week with the textbook to improve listening and reading skills.

Sometimes, I will post materials on my website for the students to download and print. The website is www.eslwriting.org. Please check for updates at least once a week.

Require Materials

Touchstone Level 3 (student book). Units 1-6.

Grades

Attendance: 10%

Midterm exam: 30%. Speaking.

Final exam: 30%. Speaking.

Quizzes: 20% (2 x 10%). Writing.

Presentation: 10%. Walkabout.

Final scores will follow the university's grade distribution policy. Please come to every class, and come on time. Students who are frequently late will be penalized: 2 lates = one absence.

Other

At the end of the semester, 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, 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.

Students who are absent because of school events, club activities or work related events will see their attendance and participation score negatively impacted. Please note I do not accept prescriptions as proof of illness or as an excuse for being absent.

Some students like to join clubs. That can be fun. However, if you miss a class because of a school event or club activity, you will be marked absent.