

First Year English Conversation Class Syllabus  
Spring 2018, Rob Whyte D570

### **Introduction**

Do you want to speak English better? How about your listening skills?

In this class you will have the chance to improve both. Our class will use a mix of activities and learning techniques that can help you communicate better. You will have many chances to think, talk, listen and communicate with other

### **Objectives**

The aim of this course is to help students improve their English communication skills by providing lots of guided, hands-on experience. Here are some specific objectives:

1. increase vocabulary understanding by 200 to 500 words with various activities including a word notebook
2. develop student interest in reading English books for fun (not textbook) with grader readers
3. improve confidence by having conversations with other students and the teacher
4. improve pronunciation skills with activities that help students notice word sounds
5. improve listening skills by completing activities that focus on words, sentences and meaning

### **Methods**

There will be a mix of activities. A lot of learning will come from pair work activities. The teacher will present short lectures to describe tasks and explain important ideas. There will also be individual work the textbook.

### **Textbook**

Touchstone 3 Student Book. Students will be informed of specific assignments that they will need to prepare for speaking activities during class time. There is no standard weekly preparation required. Students can borrow grader readers from the library.

### **Exam and Assignments**

Class attendance and participation are important and therefore are a big part of their final exam. Please note that attendance means on time and ready to go. Participation means active work. Students who sleep in class will be marked absent. Please note I do not accept letters because you went to a school club meeting. Nor do I accept medical notes to excuse students from the class because they went to a clinic. The only exception might be a short stay in the hospital.

### **Grades**

Attendance: 20%

Midterm and Final: 20% each

Book reports and participation: 20% each

**Other Notes**

Every class you need to bring 4 things: notebook, textbook, dictionary and pencil. Students who fail to bring these learning tools will be marked absent.

You must check your attendance on the school app regularly. Updates will not be performed for long periods of time. This syllabus is subject to change according to the needs of class participants as determined by the teacher.

Please silence your phone, and in the event of an emergency call, please excuse yourself from the classroom. No recording of any kind is allowed during class.