

ENGLISH SOPHOMORE WRITING – SPRING 2016

Instructor: Rob Whyte B.A. M.Sc.

Office: D570, office hours: TBA

INTRODUCTION

Bring lots of pens, pencils and notebooks to class. You will be doing a lot of writing.

The purpose of this course is to help high beginner and intermediate level students improve their ability to write clear and interesting sentences and paragraphs as well as well reasoned arguments. Much of our time will be spend learning how to describe things clearly and ideas logically. This is not an academic writing course, so you won't be creating essays. The focus is practical writing skills.

OBJECTIVES

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

- Write faster and more accurately by completing exercises.
- Recognize parts of speech by completing in-class lessons and writing exercises.
- Identify different types of sentences through short teacher presentations and practice.
- Fix errors by completing editing exercises.
- Learn and use specific types of writing skills that improve style.

METHODS

Individual writing, reading assignments, short lectures and individual feedback. You will be writing in class every day. There will be reading and writing homework each week.

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Weaving It Together 2: Connecting Reading and Writing, 4th edition as well as www.eslwriting.org. You will need lined, A4 writing paper.

GRADES AND ASSESSMENT

attendance 10%

participation 10%

midterm 30%

final 30%

quizzes 20% (2 x 10%)

OTHER MATTERS

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 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 with lined A4 paper, 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.

Attendance is very important for 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 events or work will be marked absent. I do not accept prescriptions as proof of illness.

This syllabus may change depending on the needs of the students.