

Freshman Conversation 1
Instructor: Rob Whyte
Office: D570, hours TBA

Welcome to Conversation Level 1. We will work through units 1-6 in Touchstone 3 to move into upper beginner level. There will be an emphasis on speaking practice and vocabulary development with a small amount of grammar. Weekly discussions in pairs and in groups will provide you with an opportunity to build and practice English speaking skills. In class you will give presentations and hold Q&A sessions during the book and walk about poster presentations. At the end of the course students will do an oral interview based on the textbook and other classroom material.

Objectives

- To demonstrate an ability to communicate with a degree of fluency and proficiency by completing in class activities and participating in discussions;
- To recall 200 to 300 words by completing vocabulary activities and quizzes;
- To organize and communicate ideas by completing the book and walk about poster presentation assignments.

Methods

This class will be a lecture and workshop series format using audio and visual to introduce the target language. We will use a textbook for 30-50% of the course and for practicing the conversation models. We shall also do a variety of additional workshops and activities.

Materials

Touchstone student book Level 3 (2nd edition), Cambridge University Press. The workbook is not required. Be sure to bring a notebook which can be used to build a list of new vocabulary.

Exams

Students will be assessed on sentence fluency, the ability to discuss topical ideas and vocabulary. Interviews for the midterm exam and final exam.

Attendance 10%

Midterm 20%

Final exam 20%

Book report and discussion 10%

Poster presentation 10%

Two quizzes 20% (10% each)

Participation 10%

Other Points

Every class you will need to bring 4 things: textbook, pencil, notebooks and dictionary. Failure to bring these study materials to class will result in a lower score.

Attendance scores are affected by your ability come to class on time. Please note 2 lates = 1 absence. If you need a high score (e.g. scholarship, job, internship, etc) please work for it.

Do not ask me to change your score. Unless I made an error, I do not change scores. All final scores follow the university's grading policy.

This syllabus is subject to change depending on the needs and interests of the students.

Week 1

Introductions Week, getting to know each other.

Week 2

Unit 1 THE WAY WE WERE (parts A and B). people and personalities. Odd one out.
Talk about book report.

Week 3

Unit 1 THE WAY WE WERE (parts C and D). people and personalities. Who do you admire group
discussion activity.

Week 4

Unit 2 EXPERIENCES. (part A and B) Things we did and would like to do

Week 5

Unit 2 EXPERIENCES. (part C and D). More present perfect practice. Discuss mid term exam.
Prepare for quiz. Book report small discussion.

Week 6

Unit 3 WONDERS OF THE WORLD (part A and B). countries and superlatives. Quiz #1

Week 7

Return quiz. Review for midterm exam

Week 8 - Midterm exam

Week 9

Unit 4 FAMILY LIFE (part A and B). Focus on key verbs like let, make, help, get and want

Week 10

Unit 4 FAMILY LIFE (part C and D). Prepare for poster presentation.

Week 11

Unit 5 FOOD CHOICE (Part A and B). Focus on food names, units of measurement, countable and
non-countable nouns. Discuss poster presentation.

Week 12

Unit 5 FOOD CHOICE (Part C and D). Final exam preparation. Quiz #2.

Week 13

Return Quiz #2. Poster presentations.

Week 14

Unit 6 MANAGING LIFE(Part C and D). Review. Prepare for final exam.

Week 15 - Reading week

Week 16 - Final exams