

Basic English Writing Class
Spring 2015
Professor Rob Whyte, office D570

Introduction

In this writing class, you will need a lot of pens, pencils and notebooks. You will be doing a lot of writing in this class.

The purpose of this course is to help basic level students improve their ability to write clear and interesting sentences and paragraphs. We will learn and practice expository writing. That means you will how to describe things. This is an important skill. Business communication like reports and emails, use expository writing. Oral presentations use expository writing. Basically, expository writing is used a lot. That is why it is important to learn.

Objectives

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

- Recognize and use a variety of word types (e.g. nouns and adjectives) by completing in-class lessons and writing exercises.
- Identify different types of sentences (e.g. main idea and supporting sentence) through short teacher presentations and practice.
- Learn and use proper paragraph formatting through in-class lessons and writing exercises.
- Learn to see and fix errors by completing editing exercises.

Methodology

Individual writing, reading assignments, short lectures and individual feedback.

You will be writing in class every day. There will also be reading and writing homework each week. You will receive regular feedback which will help you improve your writing.

Textbook and Materials

Weaving It Together 2: Connecting Reading and Writing, Milada Broukal 3rd edition, Heinle Cengage Learning.

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

Grades

The grading curve will follow the university policy. 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 events or work will see their

attendance and participation scores negatively impacted.

Final Exam – 30%

Midterm – 30%

Quizzes 20%

Attendance – 10%

Participation – 10%

Other Things

The course methods and structure may change depending on student needs and abilities.

At the end of the semester, please do not ask me to change your grade because you have a special situation. 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.

Every class, you will need four 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 class may be marked absent.