

Listening & Speaking I: Syllabus Spring 2009

Prof: Gord Sellar

Description:

This is the fundamentals course in listening and speaking, designed to give students the basis for further study of conversational English.

Objectives:

1. To equip students with basic listening & conversational skills such as: clarification & requesting clarification, rephrasing, taking an active role in the direction of conversations and discussions, use of a full complement of nonverbal communicative techniques, exercises on emphasis, and familiarity with typical modes of verbal expression in English.
2. To help students develop the skills and confidence required actively to lead and contribute to group discussions and conversations in a variety of contexts and on a variety of topics, either self-determined or assigned.
3. To develop a self-reflexive attitude towards language-learning through use of, for example, constant peer-evaluation and/or self-evaluation exercises in the form of class discussions of completed tasks.
4. To give students a chance to use their English in new and challenging contexts, in the fulfillment of specific tasks to be performed outside of the classroom.

Methods of Teaching:

In-class, there will be weekly student-led discussions, in-class group and pair listening and discussion exercises, as well as occasional presentations. In-class participation is a very important part of your work for this course, and thus while attendance is not graded, missing classes will have an effect on your participation grade.

Additionally, 50% of the grade will be based upon task fulfillment; these tasks will be arranged in a series, with each subsequent task being slightly more difficult than the previous one. When you have fulfilled a task, you will submit it to the class for review. If the class agrees that a particular task has been successfully completed, you will move on to the next task; if not, you will repeat the task until it is satisfactorily completed. A time limit of two weeks maximum is imposed for each new task, and only one task can be completed in a single day.

Grading Proportions:

Class Participation: 20%

Homework & Discussion Leadership: 15%

Task Fulfillment: 50%

Midterm: 5%

Final: 5%

Department Events: 5%

Textbooks:

No textbook will be used. Occasional reading, listening, or viewing homework might be

assigned, in which case it will, if possible, be made available online.

My contact information:

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Class Website: <http://gordsclass.com>

Course Outline:

The following is somewhat vague and subject to changes at any time, but it should give you an idea of what I'm planning for you. As you can see, the course is separated into 4 larger sections, and each of those sections will involve a writing project completed with a partner, or a group.

Week 1: Intro & Paperwork

Week 2: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Introducing Discussion Leadership/Signup

Week 3: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 4: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 5: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 6: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 7: Pre-Exam Review | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 8: Midterm Exams

Week 9: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 10: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 11: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 12: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 13: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 14: Task Discussions & Group Exercise | Discussion Leadership Day

Week 15: Pre-Exam Review | Discussion Leadership Day (?)

Week 16: Final Exams