

Practical English 2 Syllabus Fall 2015 — Gord Sellar

Course Overview:

Writing is a very important skill that is quickly becoming a major concern for Korean students learning English. This course is designed to build on your skills developed in Practical English 1, to help you make the leap from simpler, shorter structures to longer and more complex ones, like the paragraph and the essay. This course therefore assumes you have completed Practical English 1 and/or mastered the skills covered in that course.

In general, we will use a process-writing approach, meaning a step-by-step approach. We will also proceed in a modular fashion, taking one aspect of writing at a time, as we move toward the goal of a firm foundation in writing in English at the level of the paragraph, as well as putting paragraphs of different types together into essays.

You will be showing your work to classmates, whose feedback will help you develop, and whose work—with its many errors you must discover and help address—will help you learn to read your own work critically and constructively.

To this end, class sessions will consist of lectures, exercises, composition practice, group editing and discussion exercises, and so on; homework activities will include daily (Monday-to-Friday) writing practice online, preparation and completion of each step of specific writing assignments, and textbook exercises, readings, and editing assignments.

Homework

Homework for this class falls under several different categories.

- *Textbook Exercises:* The textbook is full of helpful practice exercises for you to complete. We will do some of them in class, but others will be assigned, and you will be expected to complete those assigned exercises in a timely manner. I'll be checking, without warning, so keep up!
- *Assignments:* I will assign specific major writing assignments several times this semester.
- *Feedback:* For major writing assignments, we will use peer editing and peer feedback. You will be required to read work by your peers and prepare feedback and comments. You will be rated by classmates on the quality of your preparation, feedback, and advice.
- *Online Evaluations:* You will fill out online peer- and self-evaluations a few times this semester. These must be filled out by the deadline in order to receive full marks; however, even if you are late and lose marks, you still must fill out all the forms. You will both give feedback to your classmates, and receive feedback from them, as well as evaluating your own work and progress.
- *Homework:* When textbook work or other homework is assigned, you are expected to complete it by the next class. I will check randomly, and the result will affect your grade.
- *Daily Practice:* You will write a minimum of paragraphs each week, throughout the semester. Regular practice is the only way to become a better writer. You will be provided with a venue online to post this writing, which in general must be completed on a day-by-day basis.

Textbook

Great Writing 2: Great Paragraphs by Folse, Muchmore-Vokoun, and Solomon.

If you would like to explore texts or materials not used in this course, please feel free to ask me for recommendations. I would be happy to help you find more worthwhile materials suited to your need.

Assessment

As you can see below, course assessment is not heavily focused on examinations. The majority of your grade (75%) will have nothing to do with the examinations in this course! This is because for your development as a writer, what is important is constant work and practice at writing in English. Regular attendance, in-class participation, completion of homework, and regular contribution to our class blog are all very important to your grade.

15% - In-class participation
20% - Assignments & Homework
30% - Daily Writings
10% - Online Evaluations
10% - Midterm Exam
15% - Final Exam

A score of 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all homework/writing assignments, especially the midterm exam and final project and portfolio, in order to pass the course.

Likewise, be warned that plagiarism in any form will be dealt with seriously.

Contact Information:

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Class Website: TBA

Course Outline:

We will follow the textbook generally, but our specific outline will depend on the student's level and how effectively we work through the book. However, in general we will complete one unit in the book over every two weeks. (Some units finish more quickly, and we will skip a couple as well.)