

English for Freshmen

Instructor: Ching Kang Liu

Time: Monday (8:10-10:00)

Room: 6F507

Office hour: Monday (3:30-4:30); Tuesday (3:30-4:30)

Rationale: This comprehensible-input-based course aims to help students build their reading habit in English, which in turn increases their confidence in reading and interest in learning English. A further goal is to help them become **autonomous** and **strategic** language learners in any circumstance. The reading theory, language acquisition theory, and research studies related to the impact of reading will be introduced in class to help students understand more about the role of reading in the process of language learning. Websites that provide good sources of audio or visual materials will be introduced in class, such as ESL podcasts on-line, the Advanced, the Greatest American Speeches, and other links to classics and children literature.

Objectives: This course is designed for two purposes: First, to enhance students' reading ability, ranging from vocabulary size to reading comprehension and reading speed, by means of a self-paced reading program. Second, different agenda will be introduced in class, such as English pronunciation, grammar and language learning, logical thinking, rhetoric, writing different types of messages. The ultimate goal is to help students understand that language "learning" can be exercised under a self-paced environment.

Assignment: Students are required to borrow at least one book every week and write a report (see the format given in class) about the book they have read. Different agenda or hot topics will be assigned to different weeks and students will have to collect data about that topic and write comments on the reading log every week. **No late assignment is accepted for any excuses.**

Instruction: The first week of semester one and the last week of semester two will be used for the pre- and the post-tests. The lecture will be started in the second week with a specific agenda. Students will exchange books for the following week in the classroom. In-class sustained silent reading will be a regular core activity for the course as to help students (1) experience a more pleasant way to acquire language and (2) choose their favorite books to borrow for the following week. About 400 books are available for this self-selection reading program this year. In addition to the books provided in class, students can also visit **room 629** for more choice of reading. **No excuses for absence will be accepted (except for hospitalization or other occasions to an equal extent). Any one with absence for six weeks (one-third of the semester) is not allowed for the final exam.**

Materials: About 400 books are available for this self-selection reading program this year and the books in **room 629**; Voice of America; [Jeff and Lucy: English as a Second Language Podcast](#)

Grades:	Assignments/participation	50%
	Quizzes	20%
	Reading comprehension / final exam	30%

2. 9/17 The placement test
3. 9/24 **Holiday**
4. 10/1 Theories of language acquisition & extensive reading (1); **Pretest**
5. 10/8 Practice of extensive reading (2); **Pretest**
6. 10/15 Individual conferencing (1) for learning difficulties
7. 10/22 English grammar: a global view (1): start from the verb
8. 10/29 English grammar: a global view (2): start from the verb
9. 11/5 English grammar: a global view (3): start from the verb
10. 11/12 **Midterm**
11. 11/19 English grammar: a global view (4) in general application
12. 11/26 Punctuation and mechanics (1)
13. 12/3 Punctuation and mechanics (2)
14. 12/10 Punctuation and mechanics (3)
15. 12/17 Individual conferencing (2)
16. 12/24 English rhetoric and its function (1)
17. 12/31 English rhetoric and its function (2)
18. 1/7 **Final exam**

A Tentative Schedule for semester 2

1. 2/18 Logical thinking (1)
2. 2/25 Logical thinking (2)
3. 3/03 Logical thinking (3)
4. 3/10 Logical thinking (4)
5. 3/17 Individual conferencing (3)
6. 3/24 Different styles of writing (1)
7. 3/31 Different styles of writing (2)
8. 4/07 Different styles of writing (3)
9. 4/14 Individual conferencing (4)
10. 4/21 **Midterm**
11. 4/28 The function of intensive reading
12. 5/05 Short stories
13. 5/12 Drama
14. 5/19 Poetry
15. 5/26 Individual conferencing (5)
16. 6/02 Wrapping up the course; Post tests
17. 6/09 **Special movie time or final**
18. 6/16 **Final**