

Syllabus

ENSL 097 – English Conversation Course Syllabus

Instructor: Violetta Petrosyan

Office: GSU 309, 357-4881

Hours: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

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Textbook

News for You newspaper subscription provided

Course Description

This course is designed to help students communicate more effectively and confidently in spoken English. The course addresses improvement in oral skills needed for class discussions and presentations. Students also have opportunities to develop their vocabulary and grammar skills as well as practice pronunciation through group exercises. This course is limited to students whose first language is not English.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through high-interest news stories written with English-language learners in mind. *News for You* consists of current interactive stories and activities that are published every week. Students read and participate in activities and exercises that explore world and national news, health, education, politics, sports, and more. Integrated vocabulary lists, photos, and captions help students develop comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Program Outcomes

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program seeks to engage and support international students by strengthening English proficiency to promote integration into the regular curriculum.

Course Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Use background knowledge of current events to decode news stories
- Build vocabulary in a meaningful, relevant context
- Develop critical thinking skills through discussion of current events
- Understand current events as portrayed by popular media in written and spoken form
- Demonstrate confident and engaging presentation skills

Course Assignments

Each week students will receive a copy of *News for You* that contains approximately seven stories. Assignments will vary in content since news is ever-changing, but will remain structurally consistent.

- In-class and homework assignments (40 points each, weekly)
 - True/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and brief essays
- Class participation (30 points each, weekly)
 - Structured debate, role-plays, mock lessons, speaking activities
- Oral presentations (30 points each, weekly)
 - 3-5 minute presentation on current event

Grading

Letter grades will be computed as follows:

90-100% = A / 80-89% = B / 70-79% = C / 60-69% = D / ≤59% = F

Course Policies

The environment in which you learn is a shared environment. For purposes of respect to everyone involved, please refrain from eating or drinking in the classroom. Also, the use of cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices for non-academic use is strictly prohibited. Any violation of these policies will result in a dismissal from the classroom.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University of Charleston community holds firmly to the belief that all members of the community are responsible for promoting and protecting academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or facilitating academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For more information, please see page 79 of the Academic Catalog:

[http://www.ucwv.edu/uploadedFiles/University_of_Charleston/Academics/UC Academic Catalog_2014-2015.pdf](http://www.ucwv.edu/uploadedFiles/University_of_Charleston/Academics/UC_Academic_Catalog_2014-2015.pdf)

Instead of allocating points for attendance, poor attendance will be reflected in the students' participation grade.

Policy for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Charleston to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with documented disabilities.

This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as regards to affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the disability coordinator and provide current documentation from appropriate credentialed persons. The disability coordinator will assist students and faculty in arranging appropriate accommodations.

This is in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Disability Coordinator Contact Information: Allison Grassie; 302 Schoenbaum Library, Clay Tower Bldg. (allisongrassie@ucwv.edu); (304)347-6993

English as a Second Language Policy

Students whose native language is not English, regardless of having met or exceeded the minimum TOEFL requirement for admission, must complete the *CaMLA English Placement Test (EPT)* and writing sample to determine if they will enroll in the ESL bridge program. Please see scores and corresponding course placement below:

- >60 High Intermediate Level ENSL courses required -- ENSL 095/ENSL 097
- 60-69 Advanced Level ENSL courses required – ENSL 096/ENSL 098
- 70+ ENSL requirement waived

Completion of the ENSL program includes the following:

- ENSL 095 – High Intermediate English with a grade of “C” or higher unless a student tested out of this course with a *CaMLA EPT* score of 60 or above
- ENSL 097 – High Intermediate English Conversation with a grade of “C” or higher unless a student tested out of this course with a *CaMLA EPT* score of 60 or above
- ENSL 096 – Advanced English with a grade of “C” or higher unless a student tested out of this course with a *CaMLA EPT* score of 70 or above
- ENSL 098 – Advanced Academic Reading and Writing with a grade of “C” or higher unless a student tested out of this course with a *CaMLA EPT* score of 70 or above

ENSL 095 and ENSL 097 are to be taken concurrently, as are ENSL 096 and ENSL 098. ENSL students may repeat each course once before being referred to an outside intensive English program. Students who score higher than 70 on the placement test but desire ESL instruction may opt to enroll in ENSL096 and ENSL 098.

ENSL 97 Schedule of Assignments – Spring 2014

In-Class	Homework	
	Introduction to the Class Review of Syllabus	Story telling
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 1 Reading comprehension	Discussion questions, new vocabulary.
	Listening and speaking	Role -playing
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 2 Reading, Vocabulary	Identifying the main idea and supporting details
	Focus on Speaking	Writing a skit.

	Role playing/Skit/ Dialogues	Test preparation
	TEST NEWS FOR YOU Issue 3 Reading	New vocabulary exercises
	Vocabulary in Focus	Summarize a paragraph

	Brief Essay	
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 4 Reading	New vocabulary exercises
	Listening and Speaking	Informative presentation
	Presentation	Reading for implied main ideas and supporting details
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 5 Reading	Discussion questions
	Listening and Speaking	Vocabulary in context exercises
	Valentine's Day Activities	
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 6 Intensive Vocabulary	Focusing on the Academic Word List exercises

	In-Class	Homework
	Speaking. Listening	Preparing for topical debates
	Debates and discussions	Previewing the topic and vocabulary
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 7 Speaking/Reading	Analyzing text structure. Relationships 1 and 2

	Writing	Presentation preparation
	Presentation	
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 8 Reading	Analyzing an article structure
	Speaking, listening	Exercises on Vocabulary and Sentence Structure
	Writing a draft	Essay Writing
	SPRING BREAK	
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 9 Reading	Making dialogues and short skits.
	Focus on Idioms	
	TEST	Previewing the topic and vocabulary
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 10 Reading for main ideas and details	Vocabulary activities
	Story Telling	
		Text analysis
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 11 Reading for new words	Focus on new vocabulary
	Vocabulary Test	Previewing the topic and vocabulary
	Talking about.....	Purpose and tone in texts (text analysis)
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 12 Reading for details	Story telling

	Vocabulary and Grammar	Vocabulary activities
	Role -playing	Writing a personal essay.
	NEWS FOR YOU Issue 13	Creating small community projects
	Community Project Presentation	
	Movie Hour	
	News For You Issue 14	
	Reading for gist	Text analysis
	Speaking about problems and solutions	Types of essays review.
	NEWS FOR YOU ISSUE FIFTEEN	Analyzing an article
	Final Presentation	