

LANGUAGE CONSOLIDATION

English for Academic Purposes
OLive-Access 2020

Instructor: Zoë Sutherland

Email: z.sutherland@berlin.bard.edu

Teaching Units: 26

Course Dates: 3 February – 22 March (Module A), 23 March - 10 May (Module B)

Schedule: Group seminar in week 1, thereafter by individual appointment on Wednesdays between 10:30am and 12:00pm.

Office Hours: There is no office hour for this course.

Course Description

The aim of this class is to consolidate students' progress in their academic English classes. Unlike other classes, it has an evolving syllabus set in two week blocks that addresses areas that need further input. The instructor from the core class, and language awareness class should primarily coordinate together, with input from students on areas that need further practice and consolidation. Attendance is decided on need and decided in advance for each two-week block. In this way, those students who require extra input will receive more focused assistance. The rationale for this class is that students acquire language at different speeds and have an unequal prior understanding of English, and therefore need different amounts of input to progress at a relatively equal pace. The first class of each block should address an area that needs consolidation and homework should be assigned thereafter. The second class should check for successful consolidation and if necessary set further practice for homework.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to use in a reasonably fluent and accurate way, English language at an Upper Intermediate level
- Have developed language learning strategies that they use both in the program and independently of the program
- Be able to use the English language at a level commensurate with the level needed for language production in future academic studies
- Have developed a strong self-awareness of their own progress and a responsibility to seek out assistance for areas of language that need consolidation

Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate and attend all classes as required. Language Consolidation is designed to support students on an individual basis. It is therefore essential that students take responsibility for their workload and engage with the study plans that they design with their instructor.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

As per Student Handbook guidelines, assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Assignments that are more than 24 hours late may be rejected for grading, particularly if the explanation offered for the delay is not satisfactory. If a late assignment is accepted for grading, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend ALL classes, i.e. to attend *every appointment*.

In cases of absence caused by illness, students must inform their instructor and the Program Director in advance of the scheduled class. Students are expected to make up for any work missed in arrangement with their instructor. Bard College Berlin cannot give a passing grade for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, whether the absences are on documented medical grounds or not.

The class in Week 1 is for all students. After that, appointments will be made on an individual basis. Each student is required to attend at least six appointments. Some students will need to attend an appointment in each week of the semester.

Assessment

The course will be for letter grade determined solely on the basis of 'active participation'. Students will receive an indicative mid-term grade and a term grade, as well as feedback and support for improving their grade as the course progresses.

Active participation means demonstrating to your instructor that you are practising and consolidating those aspects of English that you need to improve. You can demonstrate active participation by;

- attending appointments,
- completing exercises to practice constructions,
- trying out various learning methods and reporting back on what works for you,
- identifying what you need to improve and discussing this with your instructor,

- completing homework, and
- getting assigned tasks right where they were wrong before, or showing greater awareness of why answers are wrong.

More than one absence (missing one session) will affect a student's participation grade for this class.

Letter Grade calculation

The total grade out of 100% is calculated according to successful participation as described above. Letter grades are assigned as shown in the table below. Corresponding grade points are also shown. See the Bard student handbook for equivalencies to the German system. D is the minimum passing grade for any test or coursework. If a student receives a Failing F, an Incomplete I or a D grade in one or more courses, their record will be reviewed.

Letter Grade	Total %	Grade Point
A	93-100%	4.00
A-	90-92%	3.70
B+	87-89%	3.30
B	83-86%	3.00
B-	80-82%	2.70
C+	77-79%	2.30
C	73-76%	2.00
C-	70-72%	1.70
D	60-69%	1.00
F	Failure	0.00

Schedule

The first meeting is a group meeting for the whole cohort. Thereafter, a two-week study schedule will be designed according to the particular student's needs, in consultation with them. Appointments will be made for Wednesdays between 10:30am and 12:00pm.

Some students will attend every session, while others will require less language consolidation support. However, each student is required to attend a minimum of six sessions.

Week	Date and time	Area for improvement	Self-study assignment: consolidation exercises/ study method to try/ homework
1	Wednesday, 5 Feb, 10:30am - 12:00pm	Introduction to the course - group seminar to be attended by <i>all students</i>	
2	Wednesday , 12 Feb, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	to be determined (tbd)	tbd
3	Wednesday , 19 Feb, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
4	Wednesday , 26 Feb, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
5	Wednesday , 4 March, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
6	Wednesday , 11 March, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
7	Wednesday, 18 March, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
8	Wednesday, 25 March, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
9	Wednesday, 1 April, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
10	Individual Study Week , details tbc		

11	Wednesday, 15 April, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
12	Wednesday, 22 April, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
13	Wednesday, 29 April, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd
14	Wednesday, 6 May, by appointment between 10:30am - 12:00pm	tbd	tbd