

ENGLISH SKILLS

Open Learning Initiative, OLLive-UP, Spring Semester, 2021

Seminar Leader: Abigail Kafka
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Class times: Wednesday 10.45-12.15
Location: online
Office Hours: Wednesday 12.15-13.15
Credits: 2 US credit, 4 ECTS

Course Description

English Skills is a course with two main objectives: strengthening test-taking skills in order to achieve success on the TOEFL exam; and developing a solid basis in general English language skills.

Learning Goals and Objectives

For the first five weeks of the class, we will be focusing on TOEFL skills. The content of these classes will be determined based on the results of student exams in January.

After the first five weeks, the course will shift to a focus on general English, with an aim to build a solid foundation at the B2 level across all skills, including speaking, listening, reading, writing and watching. An emphasis will be placed on developing awareness, accuracy, and confidence in receptive and productive skills that can be applied both inside and outside academic contexts.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is expected. More than one absence (that is absences from one session of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. If needed, please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Assessment

Students are expected to attend all classes and fully participate in all elements of class work and homework. They are also required to do the amount of self-study needed to reach their goals on the TOEFL IBT. Students should expect to have one homework assignment per week, due in class. They will also be assessed on two presentations about a topic of their choice, one at the midterm and one at the end of the semester.

There will also be two mandatory consultation sessions: one at the midterm and one at the end of the semester.

Policy on Late Assignments

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

It is very important that students complete homework assignments on time to the best of their ability, because homework assignments will be an important part of class activities. Repeated failure to complete homework assignments on time will negatively affect the student's class experience, as well as their grade.

Grade Breakdown

Preparation and participation: 50%

Homework assignments: 30%

Midterm and final presentations: 20%

Course Books

- Headway Upper Intermediate 5th Edition Student Book (with online practice)
- Headway Upper Intermediate 5th Edition Student Workbook

Semester Schedule

- Spring 2021 classes start on Monday, February 1 and run until Friday, May 21
- Spring break: Monday, March 29 – Monday, April 5.
- Federal Holidays: Monday, March 8 and Thursday, May 13
- Completion week: May 17 - 21. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Class Schedule

- Weeks 1-5: TOEFL skills TBD
- Weeks 6-8: Chapters 1-2 / The tense system, spoken English: casual conversations and

informal writing; present tenses, common phrasal verbs

- **Week 8: midterm presentations**
- Weeks 9-11: Chapters 3-4 / Narrative tenses, talking about books and films, storytelling, questions and negatives, conjunctions
- Weeks 12-14: Chapters 5-6-7 / Future forms, expressions with take and put, talking on the phone, expressions of quantity, common collocations
- **Week 14: final presentations**

Class content may change based on the progress of the class after midterms.