

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES II: Pathways to Proficiency

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

Seminar Leader:	Cameron Wilson
Email:	e.c.wilson@berlin.bard.edu
Schedule:	Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:30
Room:	Library Reading Room Kuckhoffstr. 41
Office Hours:	Mondays 10:45 – 12:15 and Wednesdays 10:45 - 11:15
Credits:	8 ECTS, 4 US Credits
Expected Workload:	240 hours

Course Description

The aim of this class is for students to move from consolidation of English skills at the B2 level to engagement with and usage of English at the C1 level. The focus is on the conventions of Academic English in both spoken and written form. Through a combination of materials from the Oxford EAP coursebook and real-life materials, the students will develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will also learn strategies to continue to gain proficiency in English throughout their academic careers and beyond. The course will combine group, pair, and individual work in the classroom and set regular homework assignments.

Learning Goals

By the end of the course, students will:

- have engaged with and begun to use advanced listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.
- understand conventions of usage for English in an international academic environment.
- have gained familiarity with the vocabulary, grammatical and discourse structures of Academic English.
- increasingly integrate the vocabulary, structures and conventions of Academic English in their speech and writing.
- have developed strategies to continue to gain proficiency in English throughout their academic careers and beyond.

Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate in class – in person and online – and to complete bi-weekly assignments thoughtfully and on time.

Required textbook & DVD-ROM:

De Chazal, E., & McCarter, S. (2012). *Oxford EAP: Upper-intermediate/B2: a Course in English for Academic Purposes*. Oxford University Press.

Accessibility

I am committed to providing equal access to all students. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations for this course *please speak to me or send me an email during the first week of classes*. I will make every effort to create an accessible classroom.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Failure 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 two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. Students are required to schedule midterm and end-of-term consultations with the instructor, and are encouraged to make use of office hours at other times. Absence from a scheduled consultation also counts as an absence. Students should consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness. 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.

Assessment

The course will be for a letter grade and assessed through a combination of participation, assignments and tests.

- Participation (30%)

Regular attendance and active participation in class, both online and in person, count as 30% of the final grade. More than 1 absence (missing 1 session of 90 minutes) will affect a student's participation grade for this class. Participation includes active attention and involvement in lessons, discussions, group and pair activities and *submission of online classwork*. It also

includes listening to classmates and behaving according to the classroom norms that we collectively agree on.

- Homework (30%)
Regular assignments will be posted on Google Classrooms. The purpose of homework assignments is to practice the skills covered in class, it is NOT an evaluation tool; your homework grade is based on regular, thoughtful completion of assignments, not on how correct your answers are. Homework must be submitted online (on Google Classrooms) by the due date: Sunday at 3pm and/or Wednesday at 9am (see schedule for due dates). You must also bring a copy of your work to class.
- Presentations (10%)
There will be two graded in-class presentations. These will be assessed based on preparation, appropriate use of academic language and clarity of speech.
- Tests (30%)
There will be 4 online tests (15%) and a take-home final exam (15%). These will assess the language skills covered in class.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Note that, per the Student Handbook: essays 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.

Grade Breakdown

Letter Grade calculation

The total grade out of 100% is calculated according to the weighting described above and listed below on the left. Letter grades are assigned as shown in the table on the right. 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. Corresponding grade points are also shown. See the Bard student handbook for equivalencies to the German system.

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

Weighting for this course

30% Participation

30% Homework

10% Presentations

30% Tests

100% TOTAL

Schedule*

Week	Class Dates		Assignments
1	1 & 3 Feb.	Introduction: Student Learning Goals	HW due Wed & Sunday
2	8 & 10 Feb.	Unit 2 "Systems"	Presentations on Wed. HW due Sunday
3	15 & 17 Feb.	Unit 3 "Communication"	HW due Wed & Sunday
4	22 & 24 Feb.	Unit 4 "Order"	Test 1 due Wed Presentation Slides due Sunday
5	1 & 3 Mar.	Focus on presentation skills	Presentations on Wed.
6	10 Mar.**	Unit 5 "Intelligence", Cohesion and coherence, hedging language,	HW due Wed & Sunday
7	15 & 17 Mar.	Focus on grammar & writing skills	Test 2 due Wed Essay draft due Sunday
8	22 & 24 Mar.	Unit 6 "Change"	Second draft due Wed Final draft due Sunday
Spring Break			
9	7 Apr.**	Unit 7 "Culture"	HW due Wed & Sunday
10	12 & 14 Apr.	(Unit 7 Continued) Unit 8E	Test 3 due Wed. HW due Sunday
11	19 & 21 Apr.	Unit 9 "Persuasion"	HW due Wed & Sunday
12	26 & 28 Apr.	Unit 10 "Connection"	Test 4 due Wed Presentation Slides

			due Sunday
13	3 & 5 May	Focus on presentation skills	Presentations on Wed. HW due Sunday
14	10 & 12 May	Review & Focus on the future!	Exam review due Wed.
15		Completion week: take-home final exam	Final Exam due Monday May 17th at midnight

*Schedule is subject to change, students will be informed of any changes

** No class on March 8th or April 5th (Federal holidays)

Classroom Norms (To be reviewed and revised on first day of class)

1. Safety & Hygiene (masks, distance, cleaning etc.)

- If you feel sick don't come to class.
- Hand washing: When you arrive in the building, wash your hands or use sanitizer ("touch")
- Masks: Wear a mask at all times.
 - Cameron will wear mask in the front area when speaking – if you don't understand, say so
 - Everyone must wear a mask when walking around, using the whiteboard etc.
 - If you use the whiteboard, wipe the marker after using it.

2. General (punctuality, food/drink in class...)

- Drinks are okay (don't make noise with our coffee mug)
- No noisy food. No smelly food. No gum.
- Punctuality is a MUST!
 - Note: The class begins at 9:00, which means you should plan to be there 10 minutes early to wash your hands, say hello to each other and get yourself set up for class.
 - Extra time for late busses, slow train connections etc. should be factored in when you decide how long it will take you to get here.

3. Learning environment (to make it a safe and enjoyable space to learn and practice English together)

Principles: Respect, cooperation, tolerance and acceptance.

Guidelines:

- Listen to person who's talking without interruption (or side conversations)
- Use hand raising as a tool for taking turns.
- Give constructive feedback only when it is clear that it is wanted.
- Speak *to* and *about* each other as fellow students / colleagues

More suggestions:

- Accept each person as they are.
- Respect people's boundaries (some of us don't like to be asked about religion or politics)
- Give each other the benefit of the doubt, try to understand.

- Give others a chance to learn, to participate.
- Be cooperative, not competitive.
- If someone has hurt feelings or a misunderstanding talk to each other directly
(seek Cameron or someone else to help moderate the conversation if needed).
- Don't speak about other people's personal lives
- Don't laugh at other people—for their mistakes or any other reason.
- Don't condescend.
- Avoid argument.