

# English for Academic Purposes

Seminar Leader:	Cameron Wilson
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Course Dates:	31 August – 18 December
Schedule:	Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:30 Fridays – ‘EAP study hall’ time TBA
Office Hours:	Mondays 10:45 - 12:00 and online by appointment
Credits:	8 ECTS, 4 US Credits
Expected Workload:	240 hours

## Course Description

The aim of this class is to solidify student’s English skills at the B2 level and begin moving towards C1 level, with a focus on the conventions of Academic English in both spoken and written form. Through a combination of materials from Academic English coursebooks and real-life materials, the students will develop their listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. The course will combine group, pair, and individual work in the classroom and set regular homework assignments.

## Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate in classes and complete assignments on time. The classes will be divided into two sections – The Monday section will focus on consolidation of B2 level skills for those students who require support in activating the four skills areas (reading, writing, listening and speaking) at this level. Students may test out of this section if the evaluation of their first writing assignment indicates that their English language skills are already beyond B2 level. Students who test out will spend an equivalent amount of time in independent study and must pass the midterm and final exams. The Wednesday section is required for *all students* and will focus on academic conventions of speaking and writing, with written and recorded audio assignments due on alternating weeks. Finally, all students are required to commit an additional 90-minutes per week to reading and journaling in English, submitting their journals on bi-weekly basis.

## 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. 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 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected (modulo the exemption those who test out of the Monday sessions). 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 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. Students are also expected to attend office hours as required. Absence from a scheduled meeting counts as an absence.

### Assessment

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

- Participation (30%)

Regular attendance and active participation in class 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 lectures, group and pair activities. It also includes listening to classmates and behaving according to the classroom norms that we collectively agree on.

- Homework (0-10%)

Regular exercises corresponding to the topics covered in the Monday section will be posted on Google Classrooms. Students in the Monday section must submit the weekly homework online (on Google Classrooms) on the Saturday before each class and must also bring a PRINTED copy of the work to class. Students who test out of the Monday section must complete the exercises as needed and check their own work as part of their independent study time. All students are responsible for this material on the exams.

- Journal & Independent reading (6-10%)

Each week, students are required to attend a third 90-minute session of unsupervised independent study. This consists of reading about current events or other topics of interest and journaling in reaction to what is read. Journals will be submitted every two weeks.

- Written & Audio assignments (28%)

There will be a series of 6 written assignments over the course of the semester to activate new vocabulary and grammar skills. The first writing assignment will be used as an assessment. Audio assignments involve careful practice of target English pronunciation skills. Students will record and submit 5 audio assignments.

- Tests (26-32%)

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. These will assess the language skills covered in both Monday and Wednesday sections.

#### 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

16% Homework & Journaling (10% for once-a-week participants)

18% Written Assignments

10% Recorded Assignments

26% Tests (32% for once-a-week participants)

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100% TOTAL

### Schedule

Week	Class Dates	Monday section Structure of English	Class Dates	Wednesday section Academic English
1	31 Aug.	<b>Overview of Course</b>	3 Sept.	<b>Intro to Academic register</b>
2	7 Sep.	<i>Homework 1 due 05.09</i>	9 Sep.	<i>Written Assignment 1 due</i>
3	14 Sep.	<i>Homework 2 due 12.09</i>	16 Sep.	<i>Journals &amp; Audio Assignment 1 due</i>
4	21 Sep.	<i>Homework 3 due 19.09</i>	23 Sep.	<i>Written Assignment 2 due</i>
5	28 Sep.	<i>Homework 4 due 26.09</i>	30 Sep.	<i>Journals &amp; Audio Assignment 2 due</i>
6	5 Oct.	<i>Homework 5 due 03.10</i>	7 Oct.	<i>Written Assignment 3 due</i>
7	12 Oct.	<b>Review</b>	14 Oct.	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
– Fall Break 19–23 October –				
8	26 Oct.	<i>Homework 6 due 24.10</i>	28 Oct.	<i>Written Assignment 4 due</i>
9	2 Nov.	<i>Homework 7 due 31.10</i>	4 Nov.	<i>Journals &amp; Audio Assignment 3 due</i>
10	9 Nov.	<i>Homework 8 due 07.11</i>	11 Nov.	<i>Written Assignment 5 due</i>
11	16 Nov.	<i>Homework 9 due 14.11</i>	18 Nov.	<i>Journals &amp; Audio Assignment 4 due</i>
12	23 Nov.	<i>Homework 10 due 21.11</i>	25 Nov.	<i>Written Assignment 6 due</i>
13	30 Nov.	<i>Homework 11 due 28.11</i>	2 Dec.	<i>Journals &amp; Audio Assignment 5 due</i>
14	7 Dec.	<b>Review</b>	9 Dec.	<b>Final Exam</b>

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