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## Syllabus for IELI 2420: Writing from Academic Sources

### Course Description

IELI 2420 introduces you to academic writing demands. You gather information from various sources, such as interviews, surveys, and academic texts; analyze and summarize the information; and write documented essays and reports.

### Course Goals

You learn

- academic research skills needed in university-level coursework
- academic writing skills
- computer skills needed to participate in a writing class

### Learner Outcomes

You display academic research skills by

- showing in your writing that you can evaluate sources
- gather relevant information
- use electronic library databases and the Internet for information gathering

You display academic writing skills by showing in your writing

- a clear focus and overall organization typical of various academic genres
- information that has been paraphrased/summarized from multiple sources
- acknowledgement of others' ideas through in-text citations and reference lists
- use of language (syntax, grammar, vocabulary) that does not interfere with comprehensibility

**Instructor:** Franklin Bacheller, PhD

**Office:** Main 078 (inside IELI office)

**Office hours:** Mondays at 12:30 PM and by appointment

**Email:** [fabache@me.com](mailto:fabache@me.com) (Email your questions and papers to this address.)

**Class Days & Times:** Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 to 10:15 AM  
Classroom: Main 201  
Monday, 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM  
Family Life 109

### Textbook

No textbook is required. Your instructor will furnish original materials designed to help you meet the goals and objectives of this course.

### Projects

You have four major, documented papers. Documented means that information you use must come from research. It also means that you acknowledge your sources and have in-text citations.

Project 1: Writing an extended definition (15% of final grade)

Project 2: Explaining and analyzing a major event (20%)

Project 3: Writing objectively about a controversial issue (25%)

Project 4: Writing persuasively using researched facts (30%)

In-class writings (10%)

In-class writings are part of the course; they are graded and count as 10% of your course grades. In-class writings must be completed in-class and within the allotted time. In-class writings may not be completed at home.

### How to pass this class

You must show through your writing you can meet all the learner outcomes with a grade of C- or higher. If you do not pass, you must repeat the course.

*Your grade on each paper will show how well you have met the outcomes we worked on for that particular paper. Your final grade will show how well you have met all outcomes for the entire course.*

### **Grading scale**

*Passing Grades Failing Grades*

94 - 100 = A      60 - 69 = D

90 - 93 = A      59 or less = F

87 - 89 = B+

84 - 86 = B      **Late papers**

80 - 83 = B-      Turn all papers in on time. If you are late because of an emergency, let your teacher know.

77 - 79 = C+      If you are late due to illness, 70 - 73 = C- please present a signed doctor's excuse.

74 - 76 = C

### **Major topics**

*Project one: Writing an extended definition*

- Difference between basic and extended definitions
- Getting information from several sources from the Internet
- Evaluating sources of information
- Paraphrasing and summarizing information from outside sources
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Organizing an extended definition
- Writing an academic paragraph
- Including information from research in an academic paragraph
- Writing comprehensibly
- Writing and formatting a reference list
- Formatting an academic paper

*Project two: Explaining and analyzing a major event*

Everything you learned in project one plus:

- Analyzing an event — giving background, causes, effects, reasons, solutions
- Supporting your writing with information from the Internet, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Acknowledging sources through in-text citations
- Writing numbers
- Parallel structures

*Project three: Writing objectively about a controversial issue*

Everything you learned in projects one and two plus:

- Expressing both sides of an issue without giving your opinion
- Learning "objective" language
- Supporting your writing with information from general and academic sources

*Project four: Persuading with facts*

Everything you learned in projects one, two, and three plus:

- Writing persuasively using researched facts from academic sources
- Organizing an opening around a syllogism
- Writing a call to action

## **Semester schedule**

Classes begin	Monday, August 29
Labor Day (no class)	Monday, September 5
Friday class schedule	Thursday, October 20
Fall break (no class)	Friday, October 21
Thanksgiving (no class)	Wednesday, November 23 - Friday, November 25
Classes end	Friday, December 9
Classes end	April 29
Final examinations	Monday, December 12 - Friday, December 16

## **IELI and USU Policies**

### **IELI Attendance Policy**

Learning a language requires that you actively attend and participate in your classes. If you do not regularly attend classes, you may miss important information and fail the class, not progressing to the next level in the IELI program. For students studying on a visa, if you miss more than a week of class we are obligated to contact the Office of Global Engagement to report your absence. Missing multiple classes and/or failing multiple courses can have serious consequences for some students as it can be grounds for revoking their visa and requiring the students to immediately return to their country.

### **Grading**

The grades you get for each class are based on the work you do for that class. Attendance and effort are important factors for successful learning but do not directly affect your grade. It is important for you to do your best on all your in-class and at home activities as they will be graded on how well you complete these activities. Successful completion of these activities will help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to meet learner outcomes for each course.

### **Progressing to the next level**

You must receive a grade of C- or better in any IELI class in order to pass that class and move to the next level of that class. Students who receive lower than a C- are required to repeat the class until they receive a passing grade. If you are not passing a class at mid-term you will be re-registered for the class until final grades are posted. If your final grade shows that you passed the class, you will be moved up into the next level or the class will be dropped.

If you want to check on how well you met the learner outcomes for each class, there are two ways to do so: 1) you can get a copy of the student achievement form from the IELI staff assistants or 2) you can access your grade on the USU website and then compare the grade to the Grade Descriptions on the IELI website (Current Students -> Academics-> Grade Descriptions).

### **In-term evaluations**

Your professors will inform you, in writing, of your grade three times during the semester (e.g. approximately 4 weeks, 8 weeks and 12 weeks). For the midterm evaluation, IELI faculty assign a letter grade to students in each of their classes. If you are doing work at a level lower than C in any of your classes, your professor will meet with you to discuss what you will need to do to pass the class.

### **Phones, laptops and other electronic equipment**

Students are not allowed make or receive cell phone calls or send or receive text messages during class. Students must silence their cell phones before entering the classroom. Laptops must be closed.

An exception to the above policy is when the instructor asks students to use their electronic equipment to complete an in-class assignment. Students are encouraged to bring their laptops or pads to class every day.

### **USU plagiarism policy**

Plagiarism is knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials" (Code of Policies and Procedures for Students, Article V, Section 3A.1). The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include: " #1) warning or reprimand and #2) grade adjustment" (see Article VI, Section 1A): Other penalties may also be imposed at the Dean's discretion. These include probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, referral to psychological counseling, and other appropriate disciplinary actions.

**Students with disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program." If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any special request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.

**Sexual harassment**

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.