
Utah State University
Intensive English Language Institute
0715 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-0715

IELI 2320—Writing Authentic Texts
Fall 2017

Instructor: Nolan Weil
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Office Hours: T-TH 12:00-1:15; and by appointment
Class Times: T-TR 9:00-10:15 M 11:30-12:20
Location: Lilly 006 Main 301

Important Dates:

Aug 28 Classes Begin
Sept 4 Labor Day
Oct 19 Friday Class Schedule
Oct 20 Fall Break
Nov 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 11-15 Final Exams

Required Text:

No special text is required for the course. Your professor will provide materials.

About the Course:

This course focuses on developing writing skills at the intermediate level, moving from the paragraph to the academic essay. You also begin learning to acknowledge sources and use the library and the Internet to inform their writing.

Expected Learner Outcomes

Students can write well-developed and organized compositions of 3-5 paragraphs in a variety of genres:

- following basic conventions of academic writing
- employing rhetorical modes appropriate to the topic
- using grammar appropriate to the genre

Assignments & Evaluation:

There will be daily writing assignments. Some of them will be informal, in-class assignments. Others will be formal and will have to be properly formatted and produced by word-processor or posted online.

Assignments may range in value from about 10-20 points, depending on content and length. Your score on any given assignment will be based on the quality of your work. However, learning to write well is a process, involving drafting, receiving feedback, and revising.

Preliminary drafts may or may not be assigned a numerical score. I will generally comment on them in ways designed to inform you of strengths and weaknesses in your handling of the assignment. You will have one or more opportunities to revise your work before I assign a final score to the writing.

Your final grade will be calculated by adding up the total number of points you receive for all assignments and dividing by the total number of points possible. Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages.

93-100% - A
83-87% - B
73-77% - C
63-67% - D

90-92% - A-
80-82% - B-
70-72% - C-
<63% - F

88-89% - B+
78-79% - C-
68-69% - D+

USU and IELI attendance policy

Attendance is not only important for learning but essential for international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa to maintain their legal immigration status. IELI works closely with the office of Global Engagement to ensure that our students maintain their immigration status and will report students who regularly miss class. Consequently, the following attendance policy will be enforced.

Missing consecutive classes

If a student misses 7 consecutive classes for any one class without contacting the instructor and providing valid proof of absence (e.g. a medical excuse from a doctor), their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

Total classes

If a student misses 7 total class hours for any one class or 22 total class hours in any one semester, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

USU policy - excused absences

According to the USU policy, a student may not miss more than 20% of any class even if it is excused. This means that you cannot miss more than 9 classes for any one class, even if some of the absences are excused. If a student's total absences (excused and unexcused) for any class exceeds 9, their immigration status will be terminated and they will be sent home.

Warnings

Students will get at least three warnings before their immigration status is terminated. It is the student's responsibility to provide a current e-mail address to IELI and the office of Global Engagement and check their e-mail regularly. If a student's immigration status is terminated, they will be given 15 days to leave the U.S.

IELI Grading Policy

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 in IELI

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.

University Policies

Plagiarism. Plagiarism includes 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." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

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 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."