

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

IELI 2360
Reading Authentic Texts
Spring 2017

Instructor: Andrew Mikesell
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: andrew.mikesell@usu.edu
Class Times: Monday 11:30 - 12:20 Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 – 10:15
Location: Main 343

Important Dates:

January 9 – Classes Begin
January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no class)
February 17 – IELI Curriculum Day (no class)
February 20 – President’s Day (no class)
February 21 – Monday Class Schedule
March 6 to 10 – Spring Break
April 28 – Last day of Classes
May 1 to 5 – Final Exam Week

About the course

The purpose of this course is to help you develop your ability to read and understand popular media texts including those found in newspapers, magazines, and webpages, as well as texts of a more academic nature written for general readers. We will focus a lot on building vocabulary

during the semester as well as learning how various kinds of texts are organized. You will learn how to create maps that capture the structure and important content of a text and represent it visually. You will also learn how to use a variety of strategies to help you read for different purposes; for example, reading for a general idea vs. reading for detail. Moreover, you will learn some principles for improving your reading on your own. Last but not least, some of the themes and topics we will read about and discuss are quite interesting and informative, and you will likely increase your general world knowledge as well. This course also includes an extensive reading component with the goal of reading enjoyment and fluency development.

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Texts: Mosaic 1, Sixth Edition (Authors: Brenda Wegmann & Miki Knezevic)

Classroom Expectations

- **Be on time for class!** Students should do their best to ensure they are not late. Throughout the course there will be unannounced quizzes given during the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late you will not be able to complete the quiz and will miss an opportunity to earn points toward your final grade.
- **Don't use your phone during class!** Please refrain from using your cellphone/smart phone during the class. Not only does it distract you from learning but it can affect your classmates as well. However, there is one exception to this rule. I don't mind if you want to use your phone's electronic dictionary to look up words that you don't know during some exercises. I will let you know when this is acceptable.
- **Please be respectful!** You will likely encounter differing opinions and points of view during discussions and group activities. It is ok to disagree, just please be respectful/polite about it.
- **Please ask questions!** If you don't understand something or are feeling lost don't be shy and let me know. You can also ask your classmates; they might know something you don't.

The goals of this course are...

- To improve your reading comprehension at an intermediate level of language proficiency
- Increase your awareness of typical discourse organization in authentic texts
- Learn techniques for visually representing text organization and content
- To build your general and academic vocabulary

Expected Learner Outcomes

1. Demonstrate reading comprehension of level-appropriate texts by ...
 - identifying main ideas and supporting details
 - summarizing main ideas in writing
 - answering questions about content
2. Demonstrate awareness of the discourse organization of various authentic texts by completing tasks such as:
 - identifying typical patterns (e.g., topic/subtopic, chronological order, process/procedure, comparison-contrast, cause-effect, problem-solution, etc.)
 - mapping content by means of tree diagrams, timelines, T-charts, flow charts, etc.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of general and academic vocabulary through such tasks as:
 - matching of academic target word to synonyms
 - fill-in-the-blank exercises
 - using the target words in context
 - answering questions using the target words

Extensive Reading:

The best way to improve your reading ability is by reading a lot. The extensive reading component of the course will encourage you to do just that. Your instructor will discuss the idea of extensive reading during the first week of class and teach you how to choose suitable materials. You will be responsible for selecting, reading, and keeping track of your extensive reading.

Evaluation	Written assignments, tests, quizzes, & oral presentations	90%
	Extensive reading	10%

Final grades will be based on the following percentages of total points:

93-100% A	88-89% B+	78-79% C+	68-69% D+	< 60% F
90-92% A-	83-87% B	73-77% C	63-67% D	
	80-82% B-	70-72% C-	60-62% D-	

IELI Policies and Practices

IELI and USU 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. 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.

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.

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."