

## Syllabus - Summer 2017

**Topics in ESL: Current Events**                      MTW ThF 8:40 - 10:50    Main 301

**Instructor:**    Ann Roemer, PhD  
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<b>Important Dates</b>	
Classes begin	June 19 (M)
Independence Day Holiday	July 4 (T)
Classes end	July 21 (F)

**Materials:**    You will need access to a computer in order to view the online lectures. I will be giving you a lot of handouts, so I recommend that you purchase a three-ring binder. We will be using Canvas (an online learning management system) throughout the semester. Please be sure that your personal information (email, telephone number, etc.) is current in Banner. I summarize each class session and post the homework every week in the "Pages" section of the Canvas course website, so please log into Canvas regularly to keep up with what is happening.

**General Course Goal:**    To develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while increasing your knowledge of geography and current events

### Specific Objectives:

- 1) to demonstrate listening and reading comprehension of authentic passages
- 2) to develop listening skills such as:
  - a) predicting
  - b) listening for main ideas
  - c) guessing vocabulary from context
  - d) listening for details
- 3) to practice notetaking skills
- 4) to participate in discussions by:
  - a) summarizing the information presented
  - b) stating & supporting opinions
  - c) discussing issues & abstract ideas
- 5) to take timed, in-class essay examinations

**Course Activities: 1. In-class discussions.** You will be working in groups with other IELI students. At the end of the semester, you will receive a grade based on your participation in the discussions. If you are present every day, paying attention and fully participating in the conversations (both speaking and listening), you will receive an A; if you are not fully participating, or you are absent

more than 3 class hours, you will receive a lower grade. You will be marked absent if your eyes are closed during the class.

**2. In-class writing.** To practice for the essay exams, you will have in-class writing assignments that you will be asked to complete during class time. Sometimes you will summarize a news article or class discussion; other times, you will be asked to give your opinion about a topic. You are expected to write multiple drafts of these assignments until given full credit.

**Grades:** Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Classwork (attendance & participation)	10%
Homework	10%
Tests & quizzes	80%

The following grading scale will be used:

A+	= 96 -100		
A	= 93 - 95	C	= 77 - 78
A-	= 90 - 92	<del>C</del>	<del>= 75 - 76</del>
B+	= 87 - 89	D+	= 72 - 74
B	= 84 - 86	D	= 69 - 71
B-	= 82 - 83	D-	= 65 - 68
C+	= 79 - 81	F	= < 65

According to IELI policy, you must earn a C- or better to pass the course.

**Homework, Classwork & Attendance:** Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Late homework will be accepted, but no more than 1 day after due date and no more than 3 times per term. If you are not in class, you will receive 0 for classwork that day if the absence is unexcused. Excused absences require a note from a doctor, lawyer, minister, or Immigration official. More than 3 hours of unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter (i.e., A to B, B to C, etc.). Homework is due at the beginning of class; otherwise it will be marked *Late*. All students will be permitted to hand in homework one day late, but they can do so only 3 times during the semester. The first time I will mark the paper *Late #1*; the second time, *Late #2*; and the last time, *Late #3*.

Homework assignments will be evaluated using the following:

1. Look for a check mark (☑) at the top of your paper. This means you received full credit (3 points) for the assignment. ☑+ = Excellent (4 points) and ☑- = acceptable (2 points).
2. No check mark (☑) ? There's nothing at the top of your paper? This means you have some mistakes that you need to correct on the same piece of paper. Just erase and make the corrections with a different color pen right by my red/pink/green/purple marks. Then hand it in again, no later than the next class period. Do **not** rewrite the assignment unless . . .
3. You see **Rewrite** at the top of your paper. This means you need to rewrite the assignment, correcting the mistakes marked in red ink. You can use the same piece of paper as the original. Please hand in both copies together, no later than the next class period. You will have the chance to rewrite and/or correct errors as many times as possible – until you are given full credit for the assignment. However, after 3 drafts, you cannot receive higher than ☑□ (3 points).

At the end of the term, all homework points will be added up and a homework grade will be determined according to a curve.

IDEA Center course evaluations are based on the following objectives:

1. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
2. Learning to apply course material
3. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)

<b>University Grading Scale</b>	A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
	B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
	B	83-86%	D	60-69%
	B-	80-82%	F	59% and below

According to IELI policy, you must earn a **C- or better** to pass the course.

### **Class Policies**

1. Late assignments and make-up work. If your absence is excusable (you are sick or have an emergency), you need to talk with me. Homework is due at the beginning of class the day specified for each assignment.
2. Illness and emergencies. If you are sick for more than a day or two, or if there is an emergency (please note that for the university, emergencies include a death or serious illness in the family, warfare, jail or legal problems, accidents, etc.), please let me know. You can ask a friend to give me a message, leave a note on my office door, or use voice mail or email.
3. Reporting to SEVIS. SEVIS regulations state that international students who do not make normal progress in their classes will be reported to SEVIS. Please note that attendance is very, VERY important to the government, and too many absences can result in your being deported.
4. Electronic devices. Please turn off all electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, computers, Blackberries, and iPhones. If a phone rings during class time, points will be deducted from your most recent test.
5. Tardiness will result in lowering of in-class grades for that day. Every three times you are late will be counted as an absence, so please be on time to class. For every three 50-minute class hours you are absent, your participation grade will drop a full letter grade (*A to B, B to C, etc.*).
6. Your participation grade will be based on your involvement in class discussions and activities. If you are paying attention and fully participating (both speaking and listening), you will receive a high grade. If you are not fully participating, you will receive a lower grade. This in-class work is crucial. More than 3 hours of unexcused absences will lower your grade by one letter (i.e., *A to B, B to C, etc.*).

### **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.

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### **Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

The Honor Pledge: To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

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## **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.

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## **Grievance Process (Student Code)**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student\\_code.pdf](http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf) (Article VII. Grievances, pages 25-30).

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## **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.

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## **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."

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## **Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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