Instructor Contact & Course Details

Instructor: Nolan Weil
E-mail: nolan.weil@usu.edu
Office Hrs: by appointment
Mode: Online asynchronous plus periodic whole-class Zoom Conference and individual student/professor conferences as needed

Important Dates:

Aug 31 New Student Orientation
Sept 1 First Day of Class
Sept 7 Labor Day Holiday
Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 10 Last Day of Class

Course Goals

- To improve your ability to use all language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- To learn about particular topics of interest to you and your classmates
- To communicate an understanding of those topics to others.

About the Course. The professor will ask for your input in selecting several topics of interest for us to study together. If students’ interests are too divergent so that it is difficult to agree on topics of mutual interest, we may develop the course in a way that permits students to research and study a topic or topics of their own choosing.

Text / Course Materials. There is no fixed text for the course. The professor will supply some course materials, and students may also be asked to locate additional materials relevant to their individual interests. Materials could include written texts, images, movies, videos, podcasts, musical recordings, etc.

Schedule. This is a blended course. Some of the instruction will be asynchronous, meaning that there will be no fixed time to meet. I will post and give written or sometimes video recorded explanations of the assignments via CANVAS. (You are responsible for setting your CANVAS notifications to receive timely updates, as well as accessing CANVAS daily to work on and submit assignments before their submission deadlines.)

We may also have occasional whole-class meetings via Zoom for the purpose of discussing ongoing projects and clarifying any confusions that may arise about assignments. We will negotiate the times for
these meetings according to everyone's availability. I will also arrange individual conferences with each member of the class to discuss your work and help you improve your writing.

**Evaluation.** This will be based on demonstration of content knowledge communicated by means of digital or written products and/or oral presentations. Assignments and projects will all have point values, e.g., 10 points, 25 points, 100 points, etc. A final score will be calculated by adding all the points earned and dividing by the total number of points possible. (See **Grading** under **IELI Policies and Practices** below.)

**IELI Policies and Practices**

**Participation Policy**

Developing academic language ability requires that you actively participate in your classes. If you do not regularly access assigned materials, engage in course activities, and complete assignments, you will miss important opportunities to meet course objectives, and it is likely that you will fail the class and not progress to the next level in the IELI program.

**Grading**

The grades you get for each class are based on the work you do for that class. Task completion is important for successful learning but completion alone is not a guarantee that you will earn an A in every class. The quality of your work and your ability to demonstrate significant progress in meeting course objectives is also necessary. A’s and B’s are generally regarded as good grades in the United States and C’s are acceptable (even if students do not prefer them). It is important for you to do your best on all in-class and at home activities as your grade will depend on the degree to which you are able to demonstrate achievement of course objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must earn at least a C- to pass any IELI 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 professor will keep you informed of your progress throughout the semester by posting in a timely way on CANVAS the outcomes of all assignments. At midterm, your professor will assign you a letter grade. 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**

**COVID-19 Policies.** Students should be familiar with and should follow up-to-date policies regarding Covid-19 as found at [https://usu.edu/covid-19](https://usu.edu/covid-19).

**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.”