IELI 1260 Reading Level 2
Intensive English Language Institute
Utah State University
Spring 2021

Teacher: Ekaterina Arshavskaya
Email: ekaterina.a@usu.edu
Class Time: MW 12.30-2.20
Class Format: via Zoom
Office Hours: via Zoom/in-person, every day by appointment

Catalog Description:
Focuses on comprehension of texts at the low-intermediate level, with an emphasis on distinguishing main ideas from supporting ideas, active reading, summarizing, and increasing vocabulary

Course Goal:
Students will improve their reading comprehension and vocabulary at a low-intermediate level of proficiency.

Expected Learner Outcomes:
1) Students demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension by:
   • identifying the main idea of a text • answering questions about details
   • using graphic organizers
2) Students will show their knowledge of vocabulary by: • identifying and using word parts • using new words orally and in writing
Required Textbook:
“Focus 2: Reading and Vocabulary”
Please buy this book as a new book. You must have the book by the 2nd week of the course.

Required Materials:
- A pen/pencil
- A notebook
- A folder or binder to keep class notes and handouts
- A laptop (for some assignments)

Recommended Materials:
- A good dictionary (I suggest Longman Advanced American Dictionary or English-English Dictionary for ESL students)

Homework:
Assignments are due at the beginning of each class. Homework assignments must be on time. No late assignments will be accepted unless you request an extension due to illness/other serious life event in advance.

Individual Article Assignments:
Bi-weekly, you will be responsible for making a short presentation of a newspaper article discussing the topics found in the readings for each week. You can also choose another topic that is of interest to you. You will be asked
to summarize the article and express a personal reaction to it. Additionally, you will be required to submit the assignment in writing.

Use this resource to find articles: https://breakingnewsenglish.com/

Start with the lower levels of difficulty for reading.

**Book Clubs:**

Bi-weekly, choose a level-2 reader from the IELI Library. Prepare a short summary (take notes) of your book and share your impressions with your peers (your reaction to the book). Write out new words with definitions and sample sentences. In addition, you will be required to submit the assignment in writing.

**Readers’ Theater:**

We will choose and perform (in class) a play based on some reading. Be ready to participate and use your creativity!

**Canvas Discussions:**

We will share reactions to textbook readings to better understand the texts. You will be asked to share your own reaction before a specific class meeting and to post a reply to a peer.
Participation:

You will be expected to come to class prepared to ask and answer questions as well as participate actively in pair work, group work and whole class activities; **cell phones and other electronic devices must be off** so that you and your classmates can make the most of each class.

Remote Class Expectations:

This class will meet via Zoom according to the IELI course schedule. Please contact me if you need help getting started with Zoom and/or any other questions you may have at ekaterina.a@usu.edu

I hope to see you all in the online class. Please arrive on time and if you have any issues, contact me in advance, if possible. According to the USU policy, a student may not miss more than 20% of any class even if it is excused.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Homework and in-class projects 100%

Grading Scale:

According to the IELI grading policy, any grade below C- is a failing grade.

93%-100% = A  
92%-90% = A-  
88%-89% = B+  
83%-87% = B  
80%-82% = B-  
79%-78% = C+  
77%-73% = C  
72%-70% = C-  
69%-67% = D+  
66% and below = F
67%-63% = D \hspace{1cm} 62%-60% = D- \hspace{1cm} Below 60% = F

**Keys for Success:**

- If you have problems regarding the course or assignments, please speak to me about it as soon as possible.
- All submitted work should be **typed and double-spaced with a 12-point font** and have your name, the course name, the assignment, and the date on the upper right hand corner.
- Students should come to class with the appropriate materials, including books, pens, and paper.
- Class starts promptly. If you are late, take your seat without disrupting the class. Students who disrupt the class after entering late may be asked to leave the class.
- If you miss a class, make sure to contact me for the homework assignment. Even if you miss a class, you are expected to attend the following class prepared and with your homework assignment completed.
- Always speak in English in the classroom.

**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.

**Utah State University Policies and Procedures**

**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.

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: Article VII Grievances, pages 25-30.

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.

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.

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."

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.