IELI 2310 – Comprehending Academic Discourse

**Contact & Course Details**

**Instructor:** Nolan Weil  
**E-mail:** nolan.weil@usu.edu  
**Office Hrs:** by appointment  
**Mode:** Blended/Web-based course - class meetings on MTWR - 1:30-3:30pm

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**Important Dates**

- **June 7**  
  Semester begins
- **July 5**  
  Independence Day Observed - (No Class)
- **July 9**  
  Last Day of Classes

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**Text.** No text. Professor will provide materials for the course.

**About the course.** In this course, you will listen to various forms of authentic discourse, such as, interviews, news reports, documentaries, and university lectures. Our focus will be on learning how to approach listening in ways that improve your overall listening ability. In the process, you will also learn how to take good notes. Finally, this course is a content-based course, so ideally it should broaden your knowledge of many topics: in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

**Course Goals**

By the end of the course, you should be better able to comprehend various spoken genres and demonstrate your comprehension by:

- taking notes that reflect content and organization of listening passages
- restating and summarizing information for purposes of discussion (or for possible use in other academic products, e.g., oral presentations or written essays)

**Expected Learner Outcomes**

1. Students demonstrate listening comprehension by:
   - identifying main ideas
   - answering questions about the passages
   - summarizing passages
   - restating information
   - filling out graphic organizers

2. Students demonstrate note-taking skills by:
   - taking notes that reflect the organization of passages
   - taking notes that capture the important content
   - organizing important information in a visually comprehensible manner

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**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 grade you get for each class in IELI is based on the work you do for that class. Although task completion is important for successful learning, completion alone is not a guarantee that you will earn an A (the highest letter grade) in every class. The quality of your work and your ability to demonstrate significant progress in meeting course objectives is also important. Therefore, you must do your best on all in-class and at home tasks as your ability to do well on course tasks will be taken as evidence that you have (or have not) met the course objectives.

In this course, you will complete a series of graded tasks; each task will be worth a certain number of points, e.g., 10, or 15, or 25, etc. At the end of the semester, your instructor will add up the number of points you have earned and divide that by the total number of possible points to get a final percentage of the total points earned. Your letter grade will be determined by consulting the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>73-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>68-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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."