IELI 2410 – Comprehending Lecture Discourse

Contact & Course Details
Instructor: Nolan Weil
E-mail: nolan.weil@usu.edu
Office Hrs: by appointment
Schedule: T-TH 10:30-11:45
Location: Main 343

Important Dates:
August 31 First day of class
September 6 Labor Day Holiday
November 24-26 Thanksgiving Break
December 9 Last Class
December 13-17 Final Exam Week

About the Course. Students often find it difficult to understand university lectures, and not always because they do not understand the words and the sentences. Often, the problem is that students cannot identify the important points of the lecture.

In this course, you will learn about the structure of academic lectures and presentations, and you will become more aware of the language that lecturers use to signal that structure. This awareness will help you improve your understanding of—and memory for—the content of academic lectures. You will also learn techniques for taking concise notes on the main ideas and the details of lectures.
While the primary focus of the course is to build skill in listening to university classroom lectures, we will listen to many other types of materials, such as educational video media, like the kinds of things you can find everywhere on channels like YouTube. Although these materials may differ from ‘straight’ university lectures, some types are similar enough to be useful, and they are often more interesting.

Finally, although our primary aim is to learn how to listen to lectures in a more effective manner, we have a secondary aim as well: To learn cool and interesting things about various aspects of the world in which we live. In other words, this is a course in which we will treat the content that we listen to as important for our general education.

**Materials Needed.** You will need a notebook/binder to keep the notes for this class well-organized.

**Expected Learner Outcomes**

After listening to live or videotaped recording of a university lecture, students . . .

1. recognize the various organizational features and discourse structures of the lecture including: a) discourse markers and b) organizational sequences
2. take notes that reflect organization and content of the lecture. Notes may employ . . . a) key word outlines, b) bulleted lists, c) visual representations, d) other self-developed systems
3. demonstrate understanding of lecture content by completing tasks such as . . . a) filling in concept maps, b) answering questions, c) applying the content to situations, d) summarizing the content

**Assignments & Evaluation**

There will be a variety of required assignments throughout the course, both informal and formal. Formal assignments may range in value from about 10-20 points, depending on content and length. Your score on any given assignment will be based on the degree to which you achieve the objective of each assignment. Your final grade will be calculated by adding up the total number of points you receive for all assignments and dividing by the total number of points possible. Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>78-79%</td>
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<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>&lt;63%</td>
<td>F</td>
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You must get a grade of no lower than C- to pass an IELI class.
Course policy on late work

My general expectation is that you will submit all of your work on time. From time to time you may find that you need an extra day or two to finish an assignment. In those cases, there is no penalty for submitting an assignment after the due date. **However, assignments that remain INCOMPLETE for more than 7 days after the due date will lose 20% if and when finally submitted.**

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**

**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."