

# Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

## English as a Foreign Language – Academic Literacy Advanced I

Fall Semester - 2023

Instructor: Dr. Shlomo Chertok

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Office Hours: By Email Appointment

### Purpose and Description of Course

The main objective of this course is to facilitate students with the reading comprehension skills of academic texts in English. We will read articles on topics and that are both relevant to the students' fields of study and useful for academic literacy. We will focus on reading skills such as main idea identification, article structure and use of vocabulary. Secondary objectives include improving listening comprehension and oral expression, expanding vocabulary and improving grammar at an academic level.

Students will read around twenty articles throughout the course and engage in a variety of assignments to increase their vocabulary and various other tasks to improve reading, writing, listening and verbal abilities. There will be written assignments and additional articles for optional reading.

### Course Materials

Articles and exercises and other course materials will be posted on Moodle. It is the students' responsibility to access the course site and avail the reading material for each class.

**Dictionary:** Choose the format you are most comfortable with. I recommend using the old-fashioned book format. Do not rely on your cellphone for this purpose. I find online dictionaries often inaccurate and insufficient for academic purposes.

Dictionaries may not be shared and must not beep during exams. *Students are required to bring dictionaries to every class.*

**Highlighters:** Bring two different colors to class.

**Emails:** Email is the most efficient way to communicate with me. If you want me to reply keep them in English! Best way to reach me is at [tachertok@gmail.com](mailto:tachertok@gmail.com)

Whatsapp has also proven to be an efficient means of communication.

### Institutional Expectations

1. Full attendance is mandatory. A student is allowed to miss no more than two lessons (20%) and only as long as relevant documentation is provided. Missing more than this will result in a failing course grade (700). The university recognizes the following reasons as justified for missing an exam or class assignment: a. Hospitalization b. Reserve duty at time of exam c. The wedding day of the student d. Participation as a player in a university sports event at the

time of the exam e. Bed rest during pregnancy, adoption, birth f. Religious holidays approved by the university g. Mourning

2. Accessing assigned texts during class.
3. A student without a class grade will not be allowed to take the final exam and the final course grade will be 700.
4. The class is scheduled within round hours but de facto it will start fifteen minutes past the hour and end fifteen minutes before the hour. There will be one twenty five-minute break approximately halfway through each class.  
Attendance will be taken within this period every class. You must come on time to class. If you are twenty minutes or late or more, regardless of whether attendance has been taken, you will not be allowed into class and it will be counted as an absence.
5. Assignments: All homework assignments to be completed and handed in on time. Work handed in two weeks late will not be checked.
6. Requests and applications for extra time, enlarged texts or computer exams must be submitted to the office as soon as possible so that those eligible will be provided with the appropriate exam.
7. English courses are university mandatory courses. You should complete your English Course requirements first.

### **Dates, Grades and Exams:**

Completion of the following course requirements are mandatory in order to pass the course (passing grade=56):

- I. Grammar Quiz: 10%
- II. Brief written assignment (best of three -15%)
- III. Listening comprehension exercise (15%)
- IV. Verbal exercise (10%)
- V. Final Exam: 50% (with minimum passing grade of 56)

CLASS GRADE = 50%, FINAL EXAM = 50%

### **Dates of exams, assignments, and evaluations:**

Writing Assignments:

Grammar Quiz:

Listening Comprehension:

Verbal evaluation: Last two weeks of semester

Final (Seen):