

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

English as a Foreign Language

Pre-Basic B

Mon 9:00 -12:00 Wed 16:00-19:00

March 2021- June 2021

Instructors: Dr. Shlomo Chertok, Tamar Nagan

Office hours: by appointment, on Zoom

Contact: tachertok@gmail.com (keep emails in English)

Description and requirements

Purpose

One of the central purposes of the course is to provide Basic level students with the necessary skills to improve **reading comprehension** of Technology/Science or Humanities and Social Sciences - related texts in English. Emphasis is placed on the role of cohesion in texts and vocabulary building. The course will focus on topics academic level texts that are relevant to the students' academic literacy.

Students will engage in in-class and out-of-class tasks that focus on scientific/academic content and language. They will engage in three more skills: grammar, writing, listening comprehension and oral reports and evaluated on all four skills.

Course Materials

Articles, web links and exercises 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

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

Institutional Expectations

1. Full attendance with cameras on is mandatory. A student is allowed to miss only two lessons (20%) and only as long as relevant documentation is provided. Missing more than two lessons will result in a failing course grade (700).
2. Accessing assigned texts during class.

3. Completing class and home assignments and handing them in on time.
4. A student without a class grade will not be allowed to take the final exam and the final course grade will be 700.
5. 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.
6. Assignments: All homework assignments to be completed and handed in on time. Work handed in two weeks late will not be checked.
7. 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.

Dates, Grades and Exams:

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

- I. Seen mid-term exam: 20%
- II. Short written assignment (10%)
- III. Listening comprehension exercise (date TBA 10%)
- IV. Vocabulary (10%)
- V. Verbal exercise (date TBA 10%)
- VI. Final Exam: 40% (with minimum passing grade of 56)

CLASS GRADE = 60%, FINAL EXAM = 40%

In case the restrictions related to COVID19 are not lifted and it will not be possible to conduct the seen exam, the course grade will be redistributed to class assignments - 40% final exam - 60%.

A student at risk that has the relevant document from the Dean of Students can choose either to be tested in a separate classroom with a single proctor, or be tested orally on a different date, in front of two examiners.

Dates of exams:

Mid-term exam (seen): April 26

Final (unseen): June 14

Moed Bet July 11

A student who wishes to take *Moed Bet* (whether that student failed, wants to improve the grade, or did not take *Moed Alef*) has to register via the internet site of the examination unit.