

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

English as a Foreign Language – Academic Reading

Advanced II

Monday 12:00 – 16:00

March – June 2021

Instructor: Dr. Shlomo Chertok

E-Mail: tachertok@gmail.com

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 and expanding vocabulary 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 and verbal abilities. There will be written assignments and additional articles for optional reading, in addition to a mid-term seen exam.

Course Materials

Articles 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). 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. 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. Brief written assignment (best of three -15%)
- III. Listening comprehension exercise (date TBA 15%)
- IV. Verbal exercise (date TBA 10%)
- V. 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): Sunday, April 4, 16:30
Final (unseen): Monday, June 21, 13:30

