ELI 118: American English and Culture  
Spring 2013  
Monday-Thursday: 8:30-10:00  

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Office: ED S 123  
Office hours: Friday, 8:00-5:00, by appointment  
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Course Description  

This course is designed to introduce students to American customs and culture, while improving their proficiency in English. Students have opportunities to work on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in a variety of context.  

Course Objectives:  

- To improve general communication skills  
- To improve pronunciation, grammar, reading, listening and speaking through practice in real and simulated situations  
- To improve writing skills through practice, analysis, and feedback  
- To introduce students to American culture  

Student Learning Outcomes  

- Demonstrates improved listening speaking skills at an increasingly more complex level  
- Demonstrates comprehension of reading texts at an increasingly more complex level  
- Engages in the use of language in a variety of social contexts.  
- Develops an increased knowledge of writing conventions, and demonstrates the ability to produce increasingly more complex texts  

Textbooks
Course Structure

During the first seminar, we will discuss the course objectives and go over the course syllabus. After that each class will be divided into two parts. The first half of class will be devoted to listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The second half will center on American culture and customs.

Class Activities and Outside Assignments

Class Discussion and Activities
Students are expected to participate in all classroom discussions and activities, including peer editing, group work, role-play, classroom presentations, off-campus activities, cultural experiences, interviews, etc.

Writing Workshops
Students are expected to submit drafts of their writing assignments for workshops, peer editing, and teacher feedback. Writing assignments will focus on real-life needs, such as writing friendly letters, formal letters, emails, journaling, etc.

Presentations
Students will practice presenting written work in small or whole groups settings to improve pronunciation, eye contact, thought groups and prominence.

Homework Assignments
Most homework assignments will come from the textbook. All assignments must be turned in on or before the due date in order to receive credit. I do not accept late work.

Assessment
Evaluation for this class will be on-going through class participation, quality of work, teacher conferences, tests, and presentations. (See Evaluation for more details.)

Attendance
Regular attendance is critical. You must be present each class day in order to keep up with the assignments and make satisfactory progress in the course. Only five absences are allowed during the term. Six absences will lower your overall score by one letter grade. No exceptions. If you have an emergency and cannot attend class, you must contact me and prior arrangements for turning in any homework assignments.
**Punctuality**
It is essential that students arrive to class on time. Students who arrive late will be marked tardy after 5 minutes. Students who are 30 minutes late to class (or more) will be marked absent. Five tardies will be the equivalent of one absence. Please be prompt in attending your classes.

**Computer Labs**
Food and beverages are not permitted in any of the computer labs on campus. Please keep any computer station where you work clean and free from debris. In addition, downloading programs is not permitted to university computers.

**Phones in the Classroom**
Cell phone use is not permitted during class.

**Technology in the Classroom**
Only technology used for instructional purposes is allowed in the classroom. Please do not use your laptop unless you are directed to do so by the course instructor.

**Courtesy**

- All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*.)

**Plagiarism/ Academic Dishonesty Statement**
Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University – Commerce Code of Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]).

**FERPA Policy**
To enforce the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) policy, you may only use the student leo.mail.edu for online communication with ELI faculty and staff.

**Students with Disabilities**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

*Office of Student Disability Resources and Services*
*Texas A&M University-Commerce*
Evaluation

Your final grade will be assigned based on your attendance, test scores, participation in classroom activities, as well as participation in all writing workshops. We will use the standard scale for grades: A= 90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69. Please remember you must have a “B” or better in your course to progress. There is no +/-.

10% Vocabulary quizzes
10% In-class assignments, i.e. journals: recorded reflection, discussions, and speaking practice
10% Homework assignments
30% Unit Quizzes
20% Classroom Participation
20% Tests

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
This is a tentative calendar and is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week one</td>
<td>Introduction to course; New Friends; Meeting neighbors; verb “to be”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week two</td>
<td>Getting Around; Transportation; present tense</td>
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<td>Week three</td>
<td>Dining in Style; stative verbs; noncount nouns</td>
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<td>Week four</td>
<td>Extreme Sports; modal verbs</td>
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<td>Week five</td>
<td>Get Away From it All; Day Trips; simple past tense</td>
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<td>Week six</td>
<td>City Life vs Suburbs; negatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week seven</td>
<td>Money; Banking; simple past tense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam week</td>
<td>Shopping; expressions of quantity; Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week nine</td>
<td>Making a Doctor’s Appointment; How to Handle Emergencies; review modals</td>
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<td>Week ten</td>
<td>Finding Your Way Around; prepositions of place; present continuous tense</td>
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<td>Week eleven</td>
<td>Culture; grammar review</td>
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<td>Week twelve</td>
<td>Giving Back to the Community/Volunteer Work; present continuous tense</td>
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<td>Week thirteen</td>
<td>Note: There will be no class on November 22 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week fourteen</td>
<td>Dating; phrasal verbs; suggestions and proposals</td>
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<td>Week fifteen</td>
<td>Families; making suggestions; expressions of sympathy</td>
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**There is no final exam for this class.**