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ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

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ELI 116 Communications I  
Course Syllabus Spring 2014  
Monday-Thursday, 1:00-3:00  
Hall of Languages (HL), Room 303

**Instructor: Ms. Kathryn Baecht**

Office: Hall of Languages (HL), Room 214

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:30, or by appointment

Email: kbaecht@leomail.tamuc.edu

**Course Description:**

The course focuses on developing academic listening and speaking skills as well as critical thinking skills and vocabulary. Students will have opportunities to use language in a variety of contexts. Practice exercises include group interaction, role-play, debate, public speaking, and listening comprehension. This is a beginning level course with placement into the ELI by exam.

**Course Objectives:**

- To improve general communication skills
- To improve pronunciation, grammar, listening, and speaking through practice in real and simulated situations
- Pay attention to conventions of oral English communication, including grammar, word choices, register, pace and gesture in order to minimize barriers to listener's comprehension.
- Use multiple strategies to monitor the effectiveness of the communication.
- Attend to oral information.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- *Demonstrates* improved listening speaking skills at an increasingly more complex level
- *Engages* in the use of language in a variety of social contexts.
- *Demonstrates* the ability to monitor the effectiveness of communication.
- *Attends* to oral information.

**Textbook and Materials:**

- NorthStar 2: Listening and Speaking, Third Addition
- ISBN 978-0-13-240988-9
- Oxford Advanced American Dictionary for Learners of English
- ISBN 978-0-19-439972-2

## **Technology Requirements:**

- Flash drive or other means of storing digital versions of essays and other written material you generate (always, always keep a backup of everything you turn in!)
- A TAMU-C email address that you check often (everyday)
- Regular internet access (additional readings and homework will be online)
- **Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)**

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## **Assignments and Tests:**

### **Homework**

Students are expected to be prepared for class by doing all assigned reading as well as weekly homework assignments to be completed outside of class. Homework must be turned in on-time. No late work will be accepted.

### **Presentation**

Students will develop and give a presentation to the class.

### **Video Project**

Students will develop and create 3 different video projects in class.

### **Vocabulary Quizzes**

There will be a short vocabulary at the completion of each unit. Students will be told what words to study for the quiz. These quizzes may be written or oral.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

Both a midterm and final exam will be given. Details on the exams will be given in class.

## **Assessment and Grading:**

### **Assignments:**

Homework 10%

Participation 10%

Presentation 20%

Video Project 30%

### **Quizzes and Test:**

Vocabulary Quizzes 10%

Midterm 10%

Final 10%

This course uses 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. A grade of "C" or below is failing.

**Course Calendar** (subject to change):

DATE:	MATERIAL:	ASSIGNMENTS/TESTS/ ETC.
Week 1 January 13-16	Unit 1: Jobs	
Week 2 January 20-23	Unit 1: Jobs	January 20 <sup>th</sup> , MLK Day, No Class  In Class Video Project 1  Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 3 January 27-30	Unit 2: Building a Better Community	
Week 4 February 3-6	Unit 2: Building a Better Community	Vocab Quiz Tuesday  In Class Model Presentation Development
Week 5 February 10-13	Unit 3: A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned	In Class Individual Presentation Development
Week 6 Feb 17-20	Unit 3: A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned	Vocab Quiz Wednesday  In Class Individual Presentation Development
Week 7 February 24-27	Unit 4: Innocent or Guilty?	Presentations
Week 8 March 3-6	Unit 4: Innocent or Guilty?	MIDTERM THURSDAY
Week 9 March 10-13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS
Week 10 March 17-20	Unit 5: Etiquette	Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 11 March 24-27	Unit 6: Games	
Week 12 March 31-April 4	Unit 6: Games	Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 13 April 7-10	Unit 8: An Ice Place to Stay	
Week 14 April 14-18	Unit 8: An Ice Place to Stay	Vocab Quiz Tuesday  In Class Video Project 2
Week 15 April 21-24	Unit 9: Staying Healthy	
Week 16 April 28-May 1	Unit 9: Staying Healthy	Vocab Quiz Thursday  In Class Video Project 3
FINALS WEEK		FINAL EXAM -May 7 <sup>th</sup>

## **Course Policies:**

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is critical to success in this course. Excessive absences will lead to unsatisfactory progress in the course and will affect your grade.

If a student must miss class for a legitimate reason (illness, emergency) please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In order for an absence to be excused, students must provide a doctor's note or other documentation of the reason that they missed. *Students will not be allowed to make up work for unexcused absences. Any student who misses more than 15% of class instruction for any reason will not pass the course. No exceptions.*

### **Punctuality**

It is essential that students arrive to class on time. *Students who arrive late will be marked tardy after 5 minutes, and this will lower their class participation grade for the day. Students who are 30 minutes late to class (or more) will be marked absent.*

### **Phones in the Classroom**

Talking or texting on cell phones is not permitted during class. Please silence your phone during class. Phones may be used in class for instructional purposes only.

### **Technology in the Classroom**

Technology used for instructional purposes is allowed in the classroom.

## **University Policies:**

### **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**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**

**Student Disability Resources & Services**