



ELI 117: Language Lab and Study Skills – ADVANCED Spring 2013

THE COURSE:

ELI 117: Language Lab and Study Skills

WHEN:

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am -12:00am

WHERE:

Hall of Languages (HL) 146

You may access the course through the eCollege shell on your MyLeo courses

THE INSTRUCTOR:

Laura Di Ferrante, Ph.D.

EMAIL:

ldiferrante@leomail.tamuc.edu

OFFICE PHONE:

903-886-5273

OFFICE HOURS:

Tue and Thu 10 – 11; Fri 11-12; or by appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: Hall of Languages (HL) 214

MATERIALS

- Textbooks:

Understanding and Using English Grammar, Azar, 4th Edition, Pearson Longman, ISBN 0132333317

- Paper & writing utensil for writing in class

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a course in advanced English grammar. A great part of the work is focused on identifying, analyzing, and using in context the parts of speech and the units of discourse of the English language. Detecting and analyzing errors is a great resource in writing and some attention will be dedicated to this as well. The primary goal of the course is to foster the realization that English grammar is a system, to understand how it works, and to use it.

Students will learn how to handle grammatical rules and their “exceptions” by approaching them through heuristics and particularly how to observe those mechanisms in actual texts. Students will be also guided to recognize the ambiguities and multiple possible interpretations of constructions.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who are successful in ELI 117 ADVANCED will:

- a) will develop an excellent grasp of the meta-language of grammar
- b) use appropriately and effectively most structures in their appropriate contexts.
- c) be exposed to issues of usage, and orthographic and spelling conventions.
- d) be familiar with the basic concepts of variationist sociolinguistics, as they relate to grammar.
- e) recognize and apply effectively conventions of English language in speaking, reading and writing

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

You will complete all of the readings and activities: the exercises, the exams, and the assessment tests. You will either submit the hard copies in class, or through eCollege on time. The deadlines are indicated on the calendar at the end of this document.

Access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly content area of the eCollege course. The weekly content area of our course is found on the left navigation bar. Clicking on each week’s tab you will find a section called “Activities & Assignment for this week”, where you will find the list of what is due for the week. If you have never taken an eCollege course before, I strongly recommend you to take the SOT, Student Orientation Tutorial found under your "my courses" tab.

Spring 2014

Homework

You will have homework almost every week. The homework will be based on the reading and the in-class lessons. You will find details about the homework in eCollege.

Exams

The exams will be both written and oral. They will take place in class and will be based on the contents dealt with in class

Final project

Your final paper will consist of a comparison and grammatical and cross-cultural analysis of two advertisements or commercials.

The two advertisements/commercials should be connected to each other in one of the following ways:

- 1) They will be commercials on the same product, but from different decades; so if you picked a contemporary commercial on Lego, your second commercial might be on Lego, but shot and transmitted in the 1950s.
- 2) They will be commercials on the same genre of product, but different brands; This means that if you picked Pepsi Cola, as commercial n.2 you might pick Dr. Pepper.
- 3) They will be commercials on the same product, but from different countries: one from the US and the other may be from your own country. In this case, in your paper you will focus on cultural differences emerging from the two commercials. These two commercials of Nutella are good examples of two commercials on the same product from two different countries.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI22YOOCreE&feature=related>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqovWG_ewk
- 4) They will be commercials on the same product but conveyed through a different medium.
 For example, if you chose a TV commercial of Orzaka water, you may pick a magazine advertisement of Orzaka water as your term of comparison. In this case your analysis will point at the differences in visual clues and linguistic characteristics used in the two ads. How is the TV one different from the paper one?

Each paper should comprise:

- a) A description of the commercials: What is the focus of the commercials? What's the context? Who the participants are? Where are the commercials shot? How? (What about the light, the frame, the angle?) Anything you notice.
- b) Grammatical and rhetorical analysis of the text. What are the grammar structures used? Are they functional to conveying the message? Are they functional to a manipulative type of discourse?
- c) Cultural analysis;
- d) Contrastive analysis

Further details about the final project will be given in class

Presentations

The presentation of the final project is the final assignment for this course. One of the general objective of this class is to help you to use effectively your competences as a college student. For this final task you will have to prepare either an academic poster or a power point-like presentation (you can use any software you prefer) where you will present to the class your final project. You will craft your presentation with creativity and professionalism, and your product will be clean, clear, and informative. You will practice for the oral presentation, you will choose what to say and how to say it (information order, vocabulary choice). Your presentation will range from 10 and 15 minutes, so you will make sure that your presentation respects these requirements. Further details about the presentation will be discussed in class.

GRADING

Here's a breakdown of how your grade will be calculated:

ACTIVITIES	POINTS
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (10 POINTS EACH WEEK)	150
7 HOMEWORK (20 POINTS EACH)	140
4 EXAMS (25 POINTS EACH)	100
FINAL PROJECT	40
PRESENTATIONS	20
TOTAL	500

FINAL GRADE	
405-450	A
355-404	B
315-354	C
270-314	D
269 AND BELOW	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need:

- Flash drive or other means (dropbox.com account, for example) for storing digital versions of the essays and other written material you generate (always keep a backup of everything you turn in!);
- A valid, working email address that you check often (at least once a day);
- Regular internet access (additional readings are available online);

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You must have Internet access – the Gee Library on campus offers plenty of computers connected to the internet. This course is enhanced with eCollege. You can either submit assignments in paper copy in class or electronically. Your Assignments should be submitted in designated Dropboxes under each particular week. Click Dropbox in the Tool Bar on the top of your eCollege page to access dropboxes (see further steps below). Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail.

The assignments should be submitted using Microsoft Word (either PC or Mac). If you are using any other word processor (for example, WordPerfect or Microsoft Works), you must convert your files to RTF (rich text format) before sending them to me. If you don't do so, your assignment will not arrive in a readable format. You are responsible for sending me a file I can read. If I cannot read your first submission, I will alert you and give you the opportunity to correct the problem. After the first time, if you submit work that I cannot read, you will be given a zero on that assignment if the due date has passed. In order to submit an assignment using the dropbox, please follow the following steps

1. Click **Dropbox** tab
2. Click **Submit** an Assignment
3. Select Basket (e.g. Week 1, Reading Response 1)
4. Add **Attachments** (3 steps--Select File, Attach File, OK)
5. Add Comments (if any)
6. Verify that your Attachment is attached.
7. If all is OK, click **Submit**
8. If your Assignment was successfully submitted, you will see **OK**. (If you don't see OK, you need to locate the problem.)
9. Your assignment then goes to the **Outbox** of your Dropbox. Once it is graded, it will be in your Inbox.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR WORK CORRECTLY AND ON TIME.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact your instructor with any questions you may have. Your instructor's communication preference is e-mail, and her address is: ldiferrante@leo.tamuc.edu. Also, each instructor in the department of literature and languages is required to keep at least three office hours per course per week.

Grievance Procedure:

Students who have concerns about their writing course or instructors should speak *first* to the instructor about those concerns. If the student is unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Director of the First-Year Writing Program, Dr. Tabettha Adkins. Students should contact her via e-mail at Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Attendance Policy

Participation is a particularly important element in this course. You don't want to miss a class. Group discussions, peer reviews, and in-class reading and writing will be extensively used in class and they will be the main learning tools. You may miss up to six classes without penalty. After the seventh absence, your final grade will drop by one letter. After the ninth absence, you cannot pass the course.

Participation grade will be constituted by: *attendance* and *active participation*. The sum of the two will constitute 20% of the final grade.

Excessive tardiness will be penalized as an absence. If you come to class late 3 times that will count as an absence. "Late" is when I have completed calling roll and class has begun. It is your responsibility to make sure your presence is accounted for accurately; therefore, if you do come in late, then it is your responsibility to make sure I have you marked as late instead of absent.

Academic Honesty

The official departmental policy: "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 Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])

If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. She wants you to avoid plagiarism, too, so she will help you do so whenever and wherever she can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident. See your *Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce* Guide (a required text for this course) for more information.)

On University-Sanctioned Activities

To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

University Specific Procedures:

Statement on behalf of 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

Geer Library 132; Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148;

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

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*)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This calendar is likely to change in order to accommodate learning needs. All changes will be communicated in class and/or by email.

WEEK	DAYS	Notes	ASSIGNMENT (DUE TODAY!)		
			WRITING	READING	
WEEK 1	M 13 JAN	Intro to the course			
	W 15 JAN		HOMEWORK 1	Chapter 1	
WEEK 2	M 20 JAN			Chapter 2	
	W 22 JAN		HOMEWORK 2		
WEEK 3	M 27 JAN		EXAM 1 - WRITTEN	Chapter 3	
	W 29 JAN		EXAM 1 - ORAL		
WEEK 4	M 3 FEB			Chapter 4	
	W 5 FEB		HOMEWORK 3		
WEEK 5	M 10 FEB			Chapter 5 and 6	
	W 12 FEB		HOMEWORK 4		
WEEK 6	M 17 FEB			Chapter 7	
	W 19 FEB		EXAM 2		
WEEK 7	M 24 FEB			Chapter 8	
	W 26 FEB		HOMEWORK 4		
WEEK 8	M 3 MAR		EXAM 3 WRITTEN AND ORAL	Chapter 9	
	W 5 MAR				
Spring Break					MAR
WEEK 9	M 17 MAR			Chapter 10	
	W 19 MAR		HOMEWORK 5		
WEEK 10	M 24 MAR			Chapter 11	
	W 26 MAR		HOMEWORK 6		
WEEK 11	M 31 MAR			Chapter 12	
	W 2 APR		HOMEWORK 7		

WEEK	DAYS	Notes	ASSIGNMENT (DUE TODAY!)	
			WRITING	READING
WEEK 12	M 7 APR		EXAM 4 WRITTEN AND ORAL	Chapter 13
	W 9 APR			
WEEK 13	M 14 APR		HOMEWORK 7	Chapter 14 and 15
	W 16 APR			
WEEK 14	M 21 APR		FINAL PROJECT DUE	Chapter 16
	W 23 APR			
WEEK 15	M 28 APR	Student presentations		
	W 30 APR	Student presentations		