COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2020 Semester:

Register by: September 5, 2020

QUESTIONS?
Email Barbara Pinter at pinterb@durhamtech.edu

Virtual appointment requests:
https://barbarapinter.youcanbook.me
https://wilderp.youcanbook.me
https://farwahusseinshah.youcanbook.me
https://julissahurtado.youcanbook.me
Fall 2020 Course Descriptions

Reading and Writing for AP- Level B

This INTERMEDIATE level content-based course will focus on developing READING and WRITING English skills necessary to succeed in academic settings. Assignments will emphasize critical thinking and integrative skill development through reading and writing activities using high-interest materials. Students will learn to recognize common structures of reading materials and learn the foundation of academic writing. The course utilizes a content-based language teaching approach, which means students will use English to communicate knowledge and ideas about a variety of academic content topics like anthropology, art, biology, business, ecology, economics, history, literature, psychology, and sociology. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The course is designed for intermediate level students.

**Required Textbook:** *Pathways 3 Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking* by Mari Vargo and Laurie Blass, National Geographic Learning, 2nd Edition, ISBN 978-1-337-40779 Units 1-5 will be covered in Fall 2020

**Technology requirement:** Students will need a computer/laptop and reliable Internet access to take our online courses. We use Sakai, a learning platform, where the online courses will take place. Once the course starts, students will be able to access their course on Sakai. Students will be able to communicate with their teacher through the learning platform or through email.

**Section # 73658** Internet- Online  
9/9-12/14

Reading and Writing for AP- Level C

This ADVANCED level content-based course will focus on developing READING and WRITING English skills necessary to succeed in academic settings. Assignments will emphasize critical thinking and integrative skill development through reading and writing activities using high-interest materials. Students will learn academic reading strategies and will write academic essays in order to develop reading, writing and analytical skills needed for university study. The course utilizes a content-based language teaching approach, which means students will use English to communicate knowledge and ideas about a variety of academic content topics like anthropology, art, biology, business, ecology, economics, history, literature, psychology and sociology. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The course is designed for advanced level students.

**Required Textbook:** *Pathways 4 Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking* by Mari Vargo and Laurie Blass, National Geographic Learning, 2nd Edition, ISBN 978-1-337-40780-9 Units 1-5 will be covered in Fall 2020

**Technology requirement:** Students will need a computer/laptop and reliable Internet access to take our online courses. We use Sakai, a learning platform, where the online courses will take place. Once the course starts, students will be able to access their course on Sakai. Students will be able to communicate with their teacher through the learning platform or through email.

**Section # 73659** Internet- Online  
9/9-12/14
Listening and Speaking for AP-Level B  
50 hrs/$130

This INTERMEDIATE level content-based course will focus on developing LISTENING and SPEAKING English skills necessary to succeed in academic settings. Assignments will emphasize critical thinking and integrative skill development through listening and speaking activities using high-interest content materials. Listening and speaking strategies and practice activities will be centered on authentic recordings from "person on the street" interviews, social conversations, radio programs and university lectures. Students will listen to audio and view video recordings, acquire information about an academic content topic, take notes, participate and lead small group discussions and learn how to organize ideas and deliver presentations. The course will address common pronunciation challenges in American English but does not focus on pronunciation. The course utilizes a content-based language teaching approach, which means students will use English to communicate knowledge and ideas about a variety of academic content topics like anthropology, art, biology, business, ecology, economics, history, literature, psychology and sociology. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The course is designed for intermediate level students.


Technology requirement: Students will need a computer/laptop and reliable Internet access to take our online courses. We use Sakai, a learning platform, where the online courses will take place. Once the course starts, students will be able to access their course on Sakai. Students will be able to communicate with their teacher through the learning platform or through email. This course will include mandatory real-time (live) online meeting times with your instructor and classmates. Make sure you are available at the times listed in the schedule. Consider your time zone. All times listed are US Eastern times.

Real-time (live) online meeting time: Mondays 11:30-1:30

Section # 73660 Internet-Online 9/9-12/14 T Th 10:00-11:00

Listening and Speaking for AP-Level C  
50 hrs/$130

This ADVANCED level content-based course will focus on developing LISTENING and SPEAKING English skills necessary to succeed in academic settings. Assignments will emphasize critical thinking and integrative skill development through listening and speaking activities using high-interest content materials. Listening and speaking strategies and practice activities will be centered on authentic recordings from "person on the street" interviews, social conversations, radio programs and university lectures. Students will listen to audio and view video recordings acquire information about an academic content topic, take notes, participate and lead small group discussions and learn how to organize ideas and deliver presentations. The course will address common pronunciation challenges in American English but does not focus on pronunciation. The course utilizes a content-based language teaching approach, which means students will use English to communicate knowledge and ideas about a variety of academic content topics like anthropology, art, biology, business, ecology, economics, history, literature, psychology and sociology. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. The course is designed for ADVANCED level students.


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your instructor and classmates. Make sure you are available at the times listed in the schedule. Consider your time zone. All times listed are US Eastern times.

**Real-time (live) online meeting time:** Tuesdays 11:30-1:30

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**English Grammar for Professionals**

This course is intended for students with high-intermediate/advanced academic level of English language proficiency and will focus on specific grammar points in standard American English which are often more difficult for a non-native English speaker to master. The course intends to help students target the most common errors in business writing. Students will explore/observe grammar in the context of the workplace, formulate rules, watch videos, participate in discussions, and complete tasks and projects. Quizzes and other types of assessments will be used to measure progress and learning.

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**TOEFL**

If you need to improve your listening and speaking scores for the TOEFL iBT exam, this is your chance. The TOEFL Internet Based Test (iBT) preparation class is an intensive English skills development course, which focuses on teaching standardized test taking strategies for the TOEFL iBT while strengthening the main skills of English learning: reading, listening, speaking and writing. Though the intent and focus of the course is specifically aimed at enhancing TOEFL students’ iBT scores, the material covered in class will fine-tune any student’s English communication for use in academic and professional settings.


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**Real-time (live) online meeting time:** Saturdays 10:00-12:00

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Accent Reduction for International  
This comprehensive course will help you learn to speak US English clearly and accurately, which will have a significant impact on successful communication at work from informal conversations with coworkers to formal presentations. All aspects of pronunciation are covered, including production and discrimination of consonants and vowels as well as other important aspects of English pronunciation such as stress, rhythm and intonation. Students are encouraged to set individualized goals for focused study throughout the semester.

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Real-time (live) online meeting time: Mondays 6:00-8:00 PM

American Culture and Idioms  
Idioms are phrases that are unique to a language and/or culture, and they are not easy to learn. Many non-native speakers of English may feel frustrated or confused when it comes to idiomatic expressions. This course aims to develop vocabulary focusing on American idioms in spoken and written language. Learning about American traditions, lifestyle, holidays and history will provide the context to the course, so students can become more confident US English speakers.

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Real-time (live) online meeting time: Wednesdays 11:30-1:30

American Media  
The media (often seen as “mass media”) are at the forefront of culture and politics, and even education, in 2019 and beyond. Moreover, the media have undergone and continue to undergo major changes in format, purpose and impact. Thus, it is essential to acquire “media literacy”: understanding of the past, present and future of the media’s role and influence in our lives. To make the subject even more compelling, media language and discourse can differ significantly from the expository communications we use in education and business. Then, too, there is the challenge of propaganda and “fake news,” which calls us to bring new critical thinking efforts to our media consumption.
Finally, we must also consider some ways we can enhance our perception and understanding of these different formats’ languages and messages. (Take, for example, the “newspeak” of social media: spelling and grammar changes, emojis, memes, GIFs, and many more.) Through the textbook Media, Society, Culture and You (Mark Poepsel, Rebus Community 2018) and through our own direct exploration of the various media—from the older "legacy" media to the new internet-social media—we will study how their various forms of discourse can be understood in terms of sender, message, channel, audience and effect. During our term together we will have multi-media lessons as well as guest speakers and field trips. Finally, through vocabulary, grammar, reading (both verbal and visual), writing and listening-speaking activities, and critical thinking exercises, we will improve our ability to understand the media messages themselves and acquire not only media literacy, but also media fluency.

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**Real-time (live) online meeting time:** Thursdays 11:30-1:30

**Section # 73664  Internet-Online  9/9-12/14  Th 11:30-1:30**