



## UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK /TIRANA

### English Department

**Course: ESL I – Academic Reading**

**Class Meeting Times:** Thu: 09.00 – 12.00

**Instructor:** Antonela PERO

**Office Hours:** Mon, Tue, Fri: 15.00 – 17.00

**Room:** 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Administrative Building

**Phone:** 069 23 39 588

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### Catalog Description

A non-credit English course for pre-intermediate students.

### Course Purpose

This course

To raise the students' level of English from pre-intermediate to upper-intermediate by developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, as well as through practicing structured grammar activities, increasing students' vocabulary and enhancing their critical thinking skills through a variety of academic tasks.

### Required Textbooks

- Cunningham, S. and P. Moor. 2005. *New Cutting Edge Intermediate*. Essex: Longman.
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- Oxenden, C., and C. Latham-Koenig. 1999. *English File Intermediate*. Oxford: OUP. (with Workbook).
- Eastwood, J. 1999. *Oxford Practice Grammar*, New Edition. Oxford: OUP.

### Course Objectives

**Upon completion of this course students should be able to:**

- I. Conduct a conversation with a native speaker or other non-native English language users on various topics such as people, free time, appearance, shapes and materials, housework, films, body and health, food and diet, education, transport, tourism, traveling and sport.
- II. Use English appropriately in everyday situations e.g. use the phone, change money, describe an illness, check information, apologize, make requests, ask permission, ask for and give directions, invite, suggest, complain and make arrangements.
- III. Read efficiently and critically simple academic texts, newspaper or magazine articles, film reviews,

- biography extracts; identify main ideas and extract key details.
- IV. Practice writing well-organized paragraphs, descriptions, film reviews, letters giving directions or advice, formal letters of complaint, text summaries and journal entries.
  - V. Give presentations in front of a group of students or the whole class on various topics as well as participate in debates.
  - VI. Take responsibility of their own learning through continuous practice of peer tutoring, peer and self-assessment/feedback, pair and group work, daily journal entries, and weekly learning contracts.
  - VII. Acquire the skills of working effectively in group projects e.g. organizing the workload, managing the time, listening and respecting each other's ideas.
  - VIII. Be more aware of the uses of English outside the classroom setting.
  - IX. Be more aware of the cultural aspect of English-speaking countries.

### **Content of the Course**

1. Classroom language, the weather, months, clothes, daily routine, free time
2. Jobs, appearance, clothes, classical music, shapes and materials, dates
3. Time, the country, daily routine, cities
4. Time and dates, age groups, housework, adjectives of personality
5. Containers and packaging, aid organizations, feelings
6. Friendships, living with other people, family words, describing people's appearance and personality
7. Describing your lifestyle, food and diet, your sleeping habits
8. Changes in your life, your childhood, your education, reading habits, skills
9. Jobs and work, fortune-telling, imaginary situations
10. Transport, car problems, noise pollution, things that annoy you
11. The cinema, sport, music, the theatre
12. Describing a tourist town, family holidays, travel problems
13. Ships and disasters
14. Cultural concepts in readings: immigration, diversity, appearance, media, food, consumer awareness, sports, communication.

### **Course Requirements**

**Participation:** Students are expected to be present and on-time for each class and to bring all the materials they need for classwork. You are expected to participate in class by taking part in all activities. Your willingness to engage in class activities and the result of your individual, pair or group work will be recorded by your instructor at the end of each class. You may miss up to three classes without penalty. If you are absent more than three times without a reasonable justification, your participation grade will be reduced.

**Presentations and Debates:** Students are expected to take part in two presentations and two debates. One

presentation is individual and the other is part of a group project. The topics for the presentations and debates will be based mainly on the readings throughout the course.




**Journal Entries and Weekly Learning Contracts:** The daily journal entries include reflections on class and home activities, with particular attention to the practice of English at home in listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and speaking if possible. There is also a weekly learning contract where you can list all the things that you can already do in English and the things you want more practice in.

**Exams:** There are two exams throughout the semester.

**Mid-term Exam: 23 November 2006**

**Final Exam: 1 February 2007**

**General Requirements**

-  Students must complete all assignments even if they are absent from class.
-  Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a failing grade.
-  Attendance is very important. Students who are absent more than 20% of the total hours in a semester may be required to withdraw from the course.

**Criteria for Determination of Grade, including Evaluation Methods:**

Class Participation .....	10%
In-class Assignments .....	10%
Homework Assignments.....	10%
Presentations and Debates.....	10%
Journal Entries and Weekly Learning Contracts .....	10%
Mid-term Exam .....	20%
Final Exam .....	30%

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	96-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-95	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

**Additional Required Books**

- Steel, M. 2000. *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary*. Oxford: OUP.
- Qesku, P. 2000. *English – Albanian Dictionary*. Tiranë: EDFA.
- Qesku, P. 1999. *Albanian – English Dictionary*. Tiranë: EDFA

### **Technology Expectations**

Students are expected to word-process the final draft of any writing assignments. They are also expected to make use of Power Point presentations.

**STUDENTS:** If you feel that you have special learning difficulties, please, make an appointment with Ms. A. Gramo. Ms. Anxhela Gramo is trained to help students with learning difficulties. She shall provide this service to our students, just as it is offered in all American universities.

### **Course Outline:**

#### ***Week I***

**9 Oct – 12 Oct** Introduction with the course objectives, class rules, assessment policy and the preliminary outline.

Discussion of the assignments throughout the term and elicitation of any suggestions about them. Diagnostic test.

*File 1* (from *English File Book 2*, pre-intermediate)– classroom language, the weather, months, clothes, daily routine, free time; questions, present simple and past simple, present perfect, adverbs and expressions of frequency; checking in, arriving, losing your luggage. Using the graded reader books.

#### ***Week II***

**16 Oct – 19 Oct** *File 2 and 3* – jobs, appearance, clothes, classical music, shapes and materials, dates; present perfect or past simple, obligation, permission, relative pronouns, possessive pronouns, present continuous (future), invitations; changing money, getting a train/taxi. Reading: *The American Quilt*.

#### ***Week III***

**23 Oct – 26 Oct** *File 3 and 4* – time, the country, daily routine, cities; past continuous or past simple, comparative adjectives and adverbs, superlative adjectives, article *the*, first conditional, prepositions of place and movement; checking into a hotel, ordering a meal, complaining. Progress check (1-3). Reading: *Getting Along*.

#### ***Week IV***

**30 Oct – 2 Nov** *File 5 and 6* – time and dates, age groups, connectors, housework, adjectives of personality; present perfect, questions with/without auxiliaries, verb + to + infinitive, verb + -ing; giving directions, asking the way. Presentations.

#### ***Week V***

**6 Nov – 9 Nov** *File 6 and 7* – containers and packaging, aid organizations, feelings, -ed or -ing adjectives, phrasal verbs; countability, too much/many, not enough, advice/opinion; buying food, clothes, using the phone. Progress check (1-6). Reading: *Looking at Looks*.

#### ***Week VI***

**13 Nov – 16 Nov** *English File 8 and 9* – films; echo questions, so/neither do I, future forms, present passive, past passive, second conditional; describing an illness. Reading: *Getting the News*.

**Week VII**

**20 Nov – 23 Nov** Progress check (1-9). Revision. **Mid-term Exam.**

**Week VIII**

**27 Nov – 30 Nov** *File 1* (from *English File* Book 3, intermediate) – friendships, living with other people, family words, describing people's appearance and personality; present perfect or past simple, reflexive pronouns, present perfect continuous or simple. Presentations.

**Week IX**

**4 Dec – 7 Dec** *File 2* – describing your lifestyle, food and diet, your sleeping habits; present simple or continuous, adverbs of frequency, quantifiers, gerund or to-infinitive, question tags, short answers; checking information, apologizing. Reading: *Feeding Body and Soul*.

**Week X**

**11 Dec – 14 Dec** *File 3* – changes in your life, your childhood, your education, reading habits, skills; used to + infinitive, definite article *the*, can/could/be able to, make/let/allow to; making requests, asking permission. Progress check (1-3). Reading: *Consumer Awareness*.

**Week XI**

**18 Dec – 21 Dec** *File 4* – jobs and work, fortune-telling, imaginary situations; future forms, first and second conditional; explaining what you want. Debates. (Holiday: 24 Dec – 8 Jan)

**Week XII**

**8 Jan – 11 Jan** *File 5* – transport, car problems, noise pollution, things that annoy you; modals of obligation, past perfect simple, defining and non-defining relative clauses, indirect questions; asking for and giving directions. Reading: *Extreme Sports*.

**Week XIII**

**15 Jan – 18 Jan** *File 6* – the cinema, sport, music, the theatre; the passive, comparatives and superlatives, narrative tenses: past simple, past continuous and past perfect; inviting, suggesting, making arrangements. Progress check (1-6). Reading: *Staying in Touch*.

**Week XIV**

**22 Jan – 25 Jan** *File 7* – describing a tourist town, family holidays, travel problems; modals of deduction, connectors, reported speech: statements, questions, imperatives and requests; complaining. Debates.

**Week XV**

**29 Jan – 1 Feb** *File 8* – ships and disasters; third conditional. Progress Check (1-8). Revision. **Final Exam.**

**Date Prepared and By Whom Prepared**

October 2006 by Antonela Pero