



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

### **ELI 118: American English and Culture**

Spring 2014

Monday-Thursday: 1:00-3:00

Rebecca Bolin  
English Language Institute  
Texas A&M University – Commerce  
Commerce, TX 75429-3011

Office: HL 316  
Office hours: By appointment  
E-mail: Rebecca.Bolin@tamuc.edu

### **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

### **Textbook and Materials**

**Reading Explorer-1; Heinle Cengage Learning**

## **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. Calls taken during class will equal a tardy for that day.

### **Technology in the Classroom**

Only technology used for instructional purposes is allowed in the classroom. Please do not use your laptop unless it is part of the instruction.

### **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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)**

**[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)**

## 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.

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

DATE:	MATERIAL:	ASSIGNMENTS/TESTS/ ETC.
Week 1 January 13-16	Unit 1: Amazing Animals	
Week 2 January 20-23	Unit 1: Amazing Animals	Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 3 January 27–30	Unit 2: Identity/Identity Theft	
Week 4 February 3–6	Unit 2: Travel and Adventure	Vocab Quiz Tuesday Create a travel brochure
Week 5 February 10-13	Unit 3: Music and Festivals	Create display for a cultural festival
Week 6 Feb 17-20	Review: City in the Clouds	Vocab Quiz Wednesday In class presentations
Week 7 February 24-27	Unit 4: Other Worlds	Creative writing; life on another planet
Week 8 March 3-6	Unit 4: The Moon	MIDTERM THURSDAY
Week 9 March 10-13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS
Week 10 March 17-20	Unit 5: City Living	Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 11 March 24-27	Unit 6: Clothing and Fashion	Research

Week 12 March 31-April 3	Unit 8: Story and Storytellers	Vocab Quiz Thursday
Week 13 April 7-10	Unit 9: Tough Jobs Review	Test Thursday Role play – job interviews
Week 14 April 14-18	Unit 10: Pyramid Builders	Vocab Quiz Tuesday Expository writing
Week 15 April 21-24	Unit 11: Legends of the Sea	<b>Vocab Quiz Thursday Presentations</b>
Week 16 April 28-May 1	Unit 12: Vanished	Vocab Quiz Thursday Personal narrative
FINALS WEEK		FINAL EXAM-May 7 <sup>th</sup>