

## Course Syllabus

### Course: General English

**Instructor:** Amin Beigzadeh (PhD in Medical Education)

**Email:** [Beigzadeh.amin@gmail.com](mailto:Beigzadeh.amin@gmail.com). Email is the best way to reach me. I respond to student emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

**Tel:**

**Office hours:** Saturdays to Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.- 14:00 p.m. I am available and willing to meet students by appointment. Request an appointment in advance.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

General English is a course intended to enhance students' second language skills. This course is an introduction to the major themes of general English. Topics include: world population growth, changes in the family, women and change, the garbage project, languages and language diversity, left-handedness, biological clocks, headaches, sleep and dreams, health care and epidemics, medicine: from leeches to lasers, and cholesterol and heart disease

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is primarily to develop the students' reading skill in general so as to help them comprehend the English materials. This course will also pave the way for further readings of the authentic English materials related to the students' majors in future. Although the main focus would be on reading, it doesn't imply the ignorance of other skills in favor of it. To have a good command of English, an integrated mastery over the four major language skills is required but it seems to be a tall order in case of general English classes due to so many reasons ranging from high number of students within each class, heterogeneity of their English knowledge and insufficient time. In spite of these barriers, the other skills aren't to be skipped and at the same time that reading is being practiced, listening, speaking and writing will also be dealt with in different parts of the course. In other words, all the four skills go hand in hand in each session but with a high priority over reading. Upon the completion of the course, the students are expected to read and understand the general texts by means of the acquired knowledge accompanied with the reading techniques.

#### COURSE MATERIALS

**Required:**

Ackert, P., & Lee, L. (2006). *Reading and vocabulary development 3: Cause & effect* (4<sup>th</sup> ed). USA, Boston, Massachusetts: Thomson Heinle.

Swan, M. and Walter, C., (2011). *Oxford English grammar course: basic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Further Reading:**

Supplementary articles and book chapters will be assigned during the term. You will be notified of the newly-assigned materials in due course.

## EXPECTATIONS

**Attendance and participation:** Active participation in class is encouraged and expected. Attendance will be taken by the instructor each session. Participation includes coming prepared to class and contributing through speaking in class.

- As university students, you are expected to do the readings, actively review and reread the assigned materials, reflect on them, and verbalize your thought in class.
- Spend at least 3 hours a week on the course requirements.

## CLASS POLICIES

To ensure a smooth flow of discussions, the following policies are established: Students are encouraged to listen with an open mind, respect the contributions of others, and avoid personal attacks. Students will often be faced with alternative viewpoints from the professor or their peers. Thus, students should be prepared to defend their own positions with established knowledge obtained from the assigned readings and reasoned argument.

## GRADING

<b>In-class activities &amp; Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Translation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>50%</b>

## SYLLABUS

Week	Date	Readings	Grammar
1		Orientation	
2		Orientation	
3		Orientation	
4		Orientation	
5		Introduction to the course	Introduction to the course
6		Changes in the Family	To Be
7		Women and Change	Present Tenses
8		Languages and Language Diversity	Talking About the Future
9		Left-Handedness	Past Tenses
10		Biological Clocks	Questions And Negatives
11		<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Q&amp;A + Midterm 1</b>
12		Headaches	Present Perfect Tense
13		Sleep and Dreams	Past Perfect Tense
14		Health Care and Epidemics	Modal Verbs 1
15		Medicine: From Leeches	Modal Verbs 2

		to Lasers	
16		Cholesterol and Heart Disease	Conditionals
17			Adjective Clause
18		<b>Final Exam</b>	Time:

And finally, if you have any questions regarding anything in the syllabus and or the course in general, please feel free to ask. Talk to me in class, via phone, or e-mail. Don't just assume that you know (or should know) the answer, I may not have been clear enough or may have forgotten to mention something.

*c. Some useful sites and online dictionaries*

*<http://www.languageguide.org/english/> <http://easyworldofenglish.com/>*

*<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>*

*<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/>*

*<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english>*