



Language Institute
Thammasat University
EL 231 English for Political Scientists 1
Course Outline
Semester 1/2020

Pre-requisite: TU 105

Course Description:

This course focuses on the English language skills to facilitate students' acquisition and comprehension of current political developments. Through reading articles about political and social issues, both domestic and global, as well as discussing a wide variety of current topics, students will be trained to achieve essential skills which include note taking, report writing, describing situations, comparing political solutions and ideologies, and expressing opinions on basic political and social issues.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to complete the following tasks:

Note taking:

- Recognising text organization and the interconnectedness between paragraphs/parts
- Distinguishing main ideas from supporting details
- Taking notes on an article or a video

Paraphrasing and summarizing to retell a political/social situation:

- Rewriting/retelling the original contents with one's own words
- Reflecting thoughts on information about a particular topic obtained from various sources
- Organising ideas in order to develop a short paragraph/speech

Describing domestic/international situations:

- Describing cause and effect
- Discussing current issues and raising public awareness
- Organising ideas and develop causation in a short paragraph/presentation

Evaluating the solution to a problem:

- Identifying reasons for different opinions about particular issues
- Identifying the function of each paragraph and how viewpoints are presented and defended in a discursive essay

Elaborating ideas

- Elaborating one's ideas
- Identifying pros and cons concerning a controversial issue
- Expressing one's ideas about a controversial issue

Textbook/Teaching Materials:

The teacher will provide the class materials which comprise of news articles, a variety of language exercises and exercises/activities relating to the articles. 25 *baht* will be collected for this. Students are required to bring all materials to class every time.

Active Learning Activities:

Students are expected to actively participate by asking questions and expressing opinions about various issues. The course includes various types of group work, pair work, and individual presentations. It is a course requirement for the students to keep up-to-date on local and world affairs so that they can formulate opinions.

Course Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	10 points
Quizzes*	50 points
Assignments**	<u>40</u> points
Total	<u>100</u> points

* Quizzes (*individuals*)

1. Paraphrasing	10 points
2. Reading Quiz I	15 points
3. Linking and elaborating ideas	10 points
4. Reading Quiz II	15 points

** Assignments

1. Summarised report on a current situation (<i>1-2 people</i>)	10 points
2. Presentation on the causation of a current situation (<i>up to 4 people</i>)	10 points
3. Presentation showing one's opinion about the solution to a problem (<i>up to 4 people</i>)	10 points
4. Essay expressing one's opinion about a controversial issue (<i>up to 4 people</i>)	10 points

Attendance Policy:

1. Students are required to attend at least 80% of the total class hours. They cannot be absent more than 3 times before the midterm examination and 3 times before the final examination.
2. For each incidence of lateness 1 point will be deducted. For each unexcused absence 2 points will be deducted. Attendance scores can be reduced for lack of participation despite physical presence.

Plagiarism Policy:

Students of Thammasat University are required to refrain from any kind of plagiarism, i.e. an act of copying other people's work, such as language, thoughts, or expressions, without crediting the original author(s). Copying any sentences or paragraphs from any sources, e.g. websites, books, etc., and pasting them into students' assignments are thus considered cheating, which will result in a mark of zero for the assignment or even an F grade.

Instructors, Times and Venues:

Section	Date and time	Room	Instructor
810001	Mon 09.30 – 12.30	SC1024	Asst.Prof. Upsorn
810002	Mon 09.30 – 12.30	SC1025	A. Graeme
820001	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC1042	Asst.Prof. Upsorn
820002	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC1043	A. Graeme
820003	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC1044	A. Sean

Add/Drop period **August 17 – 21, 2020**
Drop “W” period **October 12 – November 15, 2020**

Tentative Teaching Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics
1	August 10	Course Introduction Note taking
2	August 17	Read Article 1 + Taking notes on a video (homework) + Paraphrasing
3	August 24	Paraphrasing (cont.) + Read Article 2
4	August 31	Paraphrasing excerpts from Article 2 + Summarising
5	September 7	No class (Substitute for Songkran Holiday)
6	September 14	Read Article 3 + Quiz 1 + Assignment 1 (take-home)
7	September 21	Quiz 2 + Submission of Assignment 1
Midterm Exam Week		
8	October 5	Describing causation in situations
9	October 12	Reading Article 4
10	October 19	Suggesting solution + Assignment 2
11	October 26	Suggesting solution (cont.) + Read Article 5
12	November 2	Read Article 5 (cont.) + Elaborating ideas
13	November 9	Assignment 3 + Assignment 4 (take home)
14	November 16	Read Article 6 + Quiz 3
15	November 23	Quiz 4 + Submission of Assignment 4

Final Exam Week