



Language Institute
Thammasat University
EL 231 English for Political Scientists 1
Course Outline
Semester 2/2020

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 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. As the course is taught online throughout the semester, students will receive the soft version of the materials of each unit a few days before the lecture. Lectures will be delivered either live or in form of a video recording on the dates as stated in the teaching schedule.

Active Learning Activities:

Though online learning is obligatorily implemented this semester, students are expected to actively participate by asking questions and expressing opinions about various issues. Students are encouraged to keep up-to-date on local and world affairs so that they can formulate opinions.

Course Evaluation:

Quizzes*	50 points
Assignments**	50 points
Total	<u>100</u> points

* Quizzes (*individuals, fixed dates, timed, online submission*)

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

** Assignments (*fixed deadlines, online submission*)

1. Summary for Article 3 (<i>1-2 people</i>)	10 points
2. Video presentation on the causation of a current situation (<i>up to 4 people</i>)	10 points
3. Video presentation showing one's opinion about a solution to a problem (<i>up to 4 people</i>)	15 points
4. Essay expressing one's opinion about the controversial issue discussed in Article 6 (<i>1-2 people</i>)	15 points

Evaluation criteria for all assignments: organisation (30%), clarity (40%) and language (30%)

Grade Bands:

80 - 100	=	A
75 - 79	=	B+
70 - 74	=	B
65 - 69	=	C+
60 - 64	=	C
55 - 59	=	D+
50 - 54	=	D
0 - 49	=	F

Plagiarism Policy:

Students 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 one's assignments are thus considered cheating, which can result in a mark of zero for the assignment or even an F grade.

Instructors, Times and Venues:

Section	Date and time	Instructor
810001	Mon 09.30 – 12.30	Asst.Prof. Upsorn
810002	Mon 09.30 – 12.30	A. Graeme
820001	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	Asst.Prof. Upsorn
820002	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	A. Graeme
820003	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	A. Sean
820005	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	A. Noot

Add/Drop period: **January 25 - 29, 2021**

Drop “W” period: **March 24 – May 6, 2021**

Tentative Teaching Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics
1	January 25	Course Introduction + Note taking
2	February 1	Read Article 1 + Taking notes on a video (homework)
3	February 8	Paraphrasing
4	February 15	Read Article 2 + Paraphrasing excerpts from Article 2 (homework) + Summarising
5	February 22	Summarising (cont.) + Read Article 3 + Preparation for Assignment 1
6	March 1	Quiz 1
7	March 8	Quiz 2 + Submission of Assignment 1
Midterm Exam Week		
8	March 22	Describing causation in situations + Preparation for Assignment 2
9	March 29	Reading Article 4 + Preparation for Assignment 2
10	April 5	Suggesting solution + Submission of Assignment 2 video
11	April 19	Suggesting solution (cont.) + Read Article 5 + Preparation for Assignment 3
12	April 26	Read Article 5 (cont.) + Elaborating ideas + Preparation for Assignment 3
13	May 3	Read Article 6 + Preparation for Assignment 4 + Submission of Assignment 3 video
14	May 10	Quiz 3
15	May 17	Quiz 4 + Submission of Assignment 4
Final Exam Week		

