



**Language Institute
Thammasat University
EL 231 English for Political Scientists 1
Course Outline
Semester 1/2019**

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 groupwork, pairwork, 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	20 points
Midterm Exam	60 points
Final Exam	70 points
Assignments (x4)*	50 points
Total	<u>200</u> points

* Summarised report on a current situation	10 points
Presentation on the causation of a current situation	10 points
Presentation showing one's opinion about the solution to a problem	15 points
Essay expressing one's opinion about a controversial issue	15 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	SC 2 – 205	Asst.Prof. Dr. Upsorn
810002	Mon 09.30 – 12.30	SC 2 – 206	A. Sukanda
820001	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC 2 – 302	Asst.Prof. Dr. Upsorn
820002	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC 2 – 303	A. Sukanda
820003	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC 2 – 304	A. Kriangkrai
820004	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC 2 – 305	A. Sean
820005	Mon 13.30 – 16.30	SC 2 -306	A. Sunata

Midterm Examination

Sunday, 6 October 2019

Time: 09:00 – 11:00

Final Examination

Sunday, 15 December 2019

Time: 13:00 – 16:00

Add/Drop period

August 22 – 26, 2019

Drop “W” period

October 14 – November 17, 2019

Tentative Teaching Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics
1	August 19	Course Introduction Read Article 1 + Taking notes on Article 1
2	August 26	Paraphrasing
3	September 2	Read Article 2 + Paraphrasing paragraphs of Article 2
4	September 9	Summarising
5	September 16	Read Article 3 + <i>Summarising Article 3 (take-home; graded)</i>
6	September 23	Midterm Review
7	October 6	Midterm Exam (09:00 – 11:00)
8	October 7	Describing situations
9	October 14	**No class** (Substitution for King Bhumibol Adulyadej Memorial Day)
10	October 21	Reading Article 4
11	October 28	Suggesting solution + <i>Presentation on the causation of a current situation (in-class; graded)</i>
12	November 4	Read Article 5
13	November 11	Elaborating ideas + <i>Presentation: One’s opinion about the solution to a problem (in-class; graded)</i>
14	November 18	Read Article 6 + <i>Writing an essay showing one’s opinion about a controversial issue (take-home; graded)</i>
15	November 25	Final Review
	December 15	Final Exams (13:00 – 16:00)