

English Language Course

Séminaire de St Geneviève

Syllabus

Spring 2013

Course : English Language

Course time & place: Sunday, 12:00-13:00 and 14:00-15:00, St Genevieve's Seminary

Instructor:

Anastasiya Shapochkina: anastasiyanyc@yahoo.com

Office hours: After class

Course Goals:

The objectives of this English language seminar are to develop students' analytical, writing, public speaking, and debating skills and enlarge students' vocabulary. The course will achieve these goals through weekly reading assignments and in-class discussions of classical literature, press and academic journal articles, weekly writing exercises, listening comprehension and public speaking exercises.

Detailed objectives:

Analytical skills: develop analytical skills through weekly writing and speaking exercises

Writing skills: write an analytical essay on a given topic by the end of the spring 2013 semester

Assignments:

- Weekly short essays based on the reading/listening comprehension assignments
- A progressive summary of your MA thesis/work
- Analytical research paper assignments

Speaking & public speaking skills:

- Exchange ideas freely in a group using variable vocabulary
- Present your ideas in front of a group using public speaking techniques
- Defend your position and hold your ground in a debate using well-founded arguments and data (spring 2014)

Assignments, in parallel with public speaking advice:

- Weekly class discussion of the assigned readings
- Weekly individual 5-min in class news briefings
- Individual PPT on a given topic: MA thesis topics or a chosen topic
- Working with renown speeches:
 - Background presentation: speaker's bio, historical context, analyzing the speech recognizing public speaking techniques
 - Prepare & give a 3-min speech on a chosen topic
- Debate exercise (spring 2014 semester)

Grammar: speak and write using proper English in the present, future and past tenses

Assignments:

- Weekly in-class reviews of grammar topics and their incorporation into the speech and written work, including a blitz review of the last class grammar concepts in the beginning of each class
- Self-correction of the written exercises using self-correction guidelines

Vocabulary: enlarge vocabulary through reading and discussing British and American literature, the press, academic articles in *Sobornost*, and eventually main political theories (spring 2014)

Assignments:

- Weekly reading with active vocabulary use: write the English language definition of every word you do not know, plus a transcription of every word you cannot pronounce
- Use the new vocabulary in text discussions and your weekly essays on a given topic

Listening comprehension: improve listening comprehension through watching American and British movies and listening to songs with the fill-in the words exercise.

Assignments:

- Watch the assigned film or video in preparation to the seminar and be prepared to discuss it in class
- In-class listening comprehension exercises

Rules of the game:

We'll go through an intense program, so your motivation is key. Preparation to class, which includes weekly reading, listening and writing exercises, is compulsory. If you have not done the reading and therefore cannot participate in class discussions, do not come to class.

Only 2 excused absences are allowed during the semester. **The** excuse is an assignment from F. Alexandr. An excused absence does not relieve you from the weekly writing, reading and listening comprehension assignments. No unexcused absences are allowed. If you see that you will not be able to complete the weekly assignments in time or come to class prepared because of your academic workload or for any other reason, do not enroll in the seminar. The attendance roster will be passed around in the beginning of the class and shared with F. Alexandr.

Academic integrity:

Academic integrity means: citing **ALL** the sources you used to formulate the arguments in your papers; citing the authors of the ideas or arguments which are not yours; putting quotation marks on any text which you copy-paste into your paper. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Required literature:

There are 2 investments to make in this course:

1. A thesaurus dictionary to help you define unfamiliar English words thereby enlarging and introducing variety to your vocabulary through synonyms and antonyms. The absence of this latter function in electronic dictionaries is the main reason why an electronic English-Russian dictionary is useless for our purposes. A thesaurus will be a valuable investment beyond this course, helping you to polish your English in the future.
2. A grammar book which corresponds to your level of English. I.e., if you have a beginner/intermediate level of English, your grammar book should not be for advanced level students, as it will not contain the topics we cover in class. Your grammar book should also have the self-correction exercise keys. Murphy is a suggested edition, although any other one corresponding to the two requirements above will do.

Program for March 2012 - June 14:

Grammar topics:

1. Tenses:
 1. Present Indefinite
 2. Present Continuous
 3. Past Indefinite & the three forms of irregular verbs
 4. Past Continuous
 5. Past Perfect
 6. Future Indefinite
 7. Future Perfect
2. Subordinate sentences
3. Direct vs indirect question & sentence structure
4. Conditional clause
5. Passive voice

6. Transitional words in writing
7. Capital letter
8. Numbers
9. Gerundive
10. Articles
11. Prepositions
12. Pronouns
13. Much vs many vs a lot of, few vs little vs a few
14. Seldom, rare, often, frequent
15. Another, other, the other, the rest

Films:

16. The Fog of War
17. Russia and the West (4h)
18. Forrest Gump
19. Truman Show
20. Groundhog Day
21. Slumdog Millionaire
22. Mr Smith Goes to Washington
23. Yes, Minister - 1-2 episodes
24. Walk the Line

US, British and Irish literature:

25. Charles Dickens: short stories
26. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
27. Bernard Shaw: *Chameleon*
28. William Somerset Maugham: short stories
29. Jack London: TBD
30. John Steinbeck: TBD
31. George Orwell: *The Animal Farm*
32. Edgar Allan Poe: short stories
33. Arthur Conan Doyle: one of the Sherlock Holmes stories
34. Agatha Christy: one of the detective stories
35. Winston Churchill: an excerpt from his WWII memoirs
36. Ernest Hemingway: "A clean well-lighted place", "Today Is Friday"
37. William Shakespeare: *Hamlet*: "To be or not to be"
38. James Baldwin: "Jimmy's Blues"
39. Jack Kerouac: "On the Road"
40. Charles Bukowski: "Post office"
41. Rudyard Kipling: short stories
42. Mark Twain: TBD

43. Oscar Wilde: TBD
44. Tennessee Williams: “Street Car Named Desire”, “Chameleon”, “Iguana”
45. Harriet Beecher Stowe: “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

Political writings:

46. Adam Smith & Liberalism
47. David Ricardo & Liberalism
48. Thomas Hobbes: *The Leviathan* & Realism
49. John Locke
50. John Mearshimer & Realism
51. Machiavelli: *The Prince*
52. Joseph Nye & Constructivism: Soft power theory
53. John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty*
54. JJ Rousseau: *The Social Contract*

Articles from the Orthodox journal *Sobornost*:

55. Esther Hookway: “Orthodoxy and the future of Europe”, 23:2 (2001)
56. Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia: “Beauty will save the world”, 30:1 (2008), p. 7-21
57. Igor Kotlyarov & Sergei Mudrov: “The Orthodox Church and the European Union”, 30:1 (2008)
58. Andrew Louth: “Inspiration of the Scriptures”, 31:1 (2009)
59. Philip Walters: “Pluralism vs Community”, 24:2

Poetry:

60. John Donne
61. Robert Frost
62. “The Naming of Parts”
63. Walt Whitman: “Leaves of Grass”
64. Joseph Brodsky: English poems

Music/songs:

65. Ray Charles
66. The Scorpions
67. Freddy Mercury & Queen
68. The Beatles
69. REM
70. Louis Armstrong & Ella Fitzgerald
71. Gershwin
72. Jonny Cash

73. Woody Guthrie
74. Fred Eaglesmith/Time to Get a Gun

Speeches:

75. Obama 2004
76. Margaret Thatcher
77. Martin Luther King
78. Mark Aurelius
79. Winston Churchill: "Blood, toil, tears and sweat..."
80. Abraham Lincoln: the Gettysburg address
81. John F. Kennedy