

ENGCMP140 Speaking and Listening

Spring 2023

Course Information

Credit hours: 1

Room: TBA

Instructor:
Email: moxu@scupi.cn
Office: 207, zone4
Tel (Main Office):
Office hours:

Note: All in-coming freshman are required to take ENGCMP140

Required Text: Course materials will be provided by course instructors.

Course Description

Many congratulations on surviving the first semester and on your excellent performances and achievements in this course!

At the onset of this course, we said, “We use languages to express ourselves as well as explore ourselves, to communicate with each other to unite, and even to perpetuate our cultures, which are the defining traits of human beings.” It might sound big and empty to a certain degree back then, but how do you feel about it now? As we reflect on the entire semester, considering the shared experiences, created memories, and observed growth among all participants, we hope these sentiments have evolved from mere words to tangible and meaningful realities.

Luckily, the story does not conclude there; it's only taking a new turn. This semester, we will continue our exploration, both internally and externally, engaging in discussions, storytelling, presentations, poem-reading, and even entertaining activities designed to delve into diverse issues. Additionally, we are going to extend our antennas for the “remote” and “unfamiliar”, further broadening our perspectives.

As always, you are encouraged to live audaciously and curiously, think actively and critically, listen patiently and understandingly, and speak up bravely and honestly. The experiences we share and the knowledge we gain will undoubtedly contribute to our personal and academic growth.

Looking forward to a new odyssey filled with discovery, engagement, and meaningful connections!

Outcomes

In this course, students will complete the following

Assignment	Outcomes Addressed	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion/ Storytelling/ Reading/Other activities	1-5	70
Presentation	1-5	30

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to perform the following:

1. Feeling more confident and comfortable speaking English in public.
2. Better understanding and adaptation to different cultural situations.
3. Using proper and effective language to express ideas, answer questions, solve problems, and discuss with people in a variety of situations.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change according to the instructor's discretion)

Week 1 Let Me Re-Introduce Myself

"The only constant in life is change" - Heraclitus

We live in an ever-changing world, we never stop changing and basically, we are made of changes. Take a moment to reflect on yourself in the moment to find things that you have never thought to be part of you. Do you like them? How do you cope with them?

- Objective: Ice-breaking and continuous self-exploration
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. Do you like changes? Why?
 2. Think about a change in yourself that happened since the beginning of college and describe it specifically.
 3. Think about a change that happened in your life recently and describe it specifically.
 4. How do you feel about these changes? Were there any difficulties dealing with them? Do they mean anything to you?
- Recommended Movie: *Boyhood*

Week 2 Me and Us

"No man is an island, entire of itself." - John Donne

No one, extremely aware of individualism as they are, can ever be truly isolated from other people, certain communities, or, as we call it generally, society. Sometimes, we do want to avoid being seen as one of "those people", but there are equally many instances when we feel great belonging to a certain group, for example, a fan club, a hobby society, an ethnical group, or a country. This week, let us focus on this social side of ourselves to see if there is anything interesting or meaningful.

- Objective: To increase the awareness of the relationship between individuals and other people, the public, and society
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. Talk about a social group where you feel belonging and specify your story with it.
 2. Do you like the environment where you live? List three influences, good or bad, that the environment exerts on you.
 3. Find something that happens in a remote place or seems irrelevant to our daily lives. Conduct research to gain an understanding of it, and then determine its relevance to you. Finally, provide a brief summary to share with us.
- Recommended Movie: *The Help*

Week 3 “Strange” Things

"Existence is Reasonable" - Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

Cross-cultural communication can happen everywhere. It could happen in a foreign scenario, a domestic place 100 kilometers away from your hometown, or even just between your parents and you whose bringing ups are substantially different. Under such situations, there are moments of freshness and excitement, and there are also experiences of confusion and shocks that we might describe as strange, weird, or impenetrable. But are they really that impossible for us to understand? Rethink before any quick answers.

- Objective: To increase the awareness of different people, lifestyles, thinking, and cultures.
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. Talk about something or someone that you regard as “strange” specifically.
 2. Does that bother you? How do you cope with it?
 3. Do you have any experience of changing attitudes towards certain things or people that you initially could hardly understand? Tell us.
 4. As it goes, *"Existence is Reasonable"*, do we have to love all the different people, things, or cultures in this world?
- Recommended Movie: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*

Week 4 Beauty

"Beauty is not caused. It is." - Emily Dickinson

It is never easy to define what beauty is, but do not fear talking about it. Beauty can sometimes be elusive but is always generous; it never rejects anyone to find it in every perceivable, however inconceivable, way. In this little game of sense and sensibility, everyone is invited.

- Objective: To talk about the perception of beauty.
- Suggested Activity 1: Poem Reading: Ask students to find poems about beauty and read them in class.
- Suggested Activity 2: Discussion

Questions:

 1. Talk about a creature that you think is beautiful.
 2. Talk about an occurrence that you think is beautiful.
 3. Talk about a person that you think is beautiful.
 4. Talk about an object that you think is beautiful.
- Suggested Activity 3: Presentation: Ask students to showcase anything that they find beauty in.
- Recommended Movie: *Baraka*

Week 5 Science, Technology, and Our Life

"Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition, and myth frame our response." - Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.

We always marvel at the extraordinary ability of human beings to unveil and transform the world through science and technology, aligning it with our intentions. At times, some may even harbor the belief that we are basically omniscient and omnipotent. However, there are occasions of unease and fear when we perceive the rapid pace at which science and technology advance beyond our control. As we use this double-edged sword, the question arises: how can we ensure it is thoughtful and responsible?

- Objective: To have a deeper thinking and brief discussion on scientific and technological ethics.
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. Talk about one advance in science and technology that held your attention and introduce it with understandable words.
 2. Talk about one scientific development that makes you feel intimidated and specify the reasons.
 3. Imagine, there is a robot that looks, moves, thinks, and talks exactly the way we do (almost human beings). Can you accept it as a member of your life? Describe your daily life with such a robot.
- Recommended Movie: *Her*

Week 6 Create Something!

"Creativity is intelligence having fun." - Albert Einstein

While we may not know who you are at this moment or who you'll become, one thing is certain: you possess a natural creativity. Reflect on those instances when inspiration struck like lightning, illuminating your wild and whimsical ideas. Now, channel that energy into crafting something uniquely yours – whether it's an app, a game, a tool, or anything that captures the essence of your intelligent sparks.

- Objective: To encourage students' creation and sharing of ideas.
- Suggested Activity: Presentation(8-10mins) & Peer Review

Week 7 What Is a Good Presentation?

"Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

We've witnessed countless presentations, but how many truly linger in our memories? And when it comes to our own presentations, can we be confident that our intended message efficiently reached our audience? In a world where effective communication is paramount, the ability to deliver an impactful presentation becomes a skill that sets you apart. This time, we're here to delve into the art of crafting compelling presentations—ones that captivate and resonate, ensuring your message leaves a lasting imprint.

- Objective: To improve presentation skills
- Suggested Activity: Discussion& Lecture
- Questions:
 1. What is the most impressive presentation for you? And why?

2. What are your standards for a good presentation?
3. What do you like about doing a presentation?
4. What do you fear/ dislike about doing a presentation?

Week 8 Game Week

“Yay~”

Week 9 If I Were a Girl/Boy, Even Just for a Day...

"The common bond of humanity and decency that we share is stronger than any conflict, any adversity. Fighting for your convictions is important. But finding common ground is essential." - Barack Obama

You just wake up from the best sleep ever and everything suggests that it is a great day ahead until you find that you've been magically turned into the opposite sex and there is a voice from somewhere granting you that you are going to live only one day in this body. Unlike the expected reaction of confusion and reluctance in some cliché movies, you decide to take an adventure and so it goes...

- Objective: To arouse the understanding of the opposite sex and the awareness of equality
- Suggested Activity: Storytelling& Discussion
- Your story must include:
 1. The good experiences being the opposite sex.
 2. The bad experiences being the opposite sex.
 3. (If any), the things (bold as they are, no obscene or illegal behavior) that you could finally do with this opposite sex.
 4. Your last moments of the day.
- Recommended Movie: *Hidden Figures*

Week 10 Oh Look What You've Bought

"I see it, I like it, I want it, I got it (yeah)" – Ariana Grande

You may have heard — or possibly have done — such things: lining up for 18 hours for limited edition AJ sneakers, maxing out a credit card for the latest iPhone, taking out a loan for plastic surgery, and having “costless” fun buying a bunch of “cheap” things that would be left untouched three days later. Interesting, huh?

- Objective: To have a closer examination of consumption behavior
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. If you have enough money, what would you buy?
 2. List one thing that you regret buying the most and specify the reasons why you bought it then and why you regret buying it now.
 3. List one thing (with prices under 500 yuan) that you used for more than five years.
 4. Why do we buy things?
 5. List three things that are important to you that cannot be bought by money.
- Recommended Movie: *The Devil Wears Prada*

Week 11 My Own Swan Song

"Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart." - Steve Jobs

I understand this topic might be too sentimental or utterly too early for you, but yes, today, we aim to shine a spotlight on the inevitable aspect of life—death. No empty discussion or preaching, instead, we approach it by planning our own funerals. Surprisingly, there are resemblances between funerals and other significant life events such as birthday parties or wedding ceremonies: the thoughtful selection of themes, venues, background music, guests, decorations, speeches, and even dress codes. Normally it's not us to arrange these elements for our funerals, but at least for this last one time, let's monopolize our own final celebration.

- Objective: To approach the topic of death in a less heavy way.
- Suggested Activity: Presentation(5-8mins)
- You may design your funerals by selectively considering the following aspects:
 1. Where do you want to hold your funeral?
 2. Name three people besides your parents who you wish to be present.
 3. How do you want the venue to be? Specifically, the themed color and decoration style.
 4. If you could magically show up at the funeral to give your final speech, what would you say?
 5. Do you have a playlist of the background music?
 6. Feel free to add anything else that you would like to include in the design of your funerals.
- Recommended Movie: *A Man Called Otto/ The Bucket List/ Coco*

Week 12 Appreciation of Artworks

"Art is the most beautiful of all lies, and the truest of all truths." -Gustave Flaubert

Everyone has their eyes for beauty, rendering art a very subjective experience which in the meantime generously offers us the freest space perception and interpretation. This week, we will fully practice democracy by appreciating a diverse array of artworks selected by different people. You are more than encouraged to sharpen your senses and open your mouths.

- Objective: To have a brief attempt to see artworks in a more personal way
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- We have prepared you with a pool of art categories from which each student randomly draws one category. Then you should choose one piece of artwork according to the category, bring it to class, give a brief introduction to that, and everyone else talks about their feelings towards this artwork one by one

Byzantine art	Ancient Roman art
Ancient Chinese art	Japanese art
Indian art	Russian art
Polynesian art	Ancient Greek art
Baroque art	Renaissance art
Islamic art	Native American art
Persian art	Thai art

- Recommended Movie: *Midnight in Paris/ Loving Vincent*

- **Weeks 13 & 14 Pack Up and Go!**

"Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller." - Ibn Battuta

It may have been a hectic journey for most of our lives, but for the next two weeks, let us take it slow and unfasten our wild imagination: let's go (imaginarily though) for a trip to whichever place with whomever we love doing whatever we want to without taking into account anything else at all, a total autonomy!

- Objective: To encourage students to explore the world and hopefully they could have some fun imagining traveling to different places.
- Suggested Activity: Presentation(10-15mins)
- You may design your trips by selectively considering the following aspects:
 1. Choose a place and get to know more about it.
 2. Make a plan, including transportation, accommodation, places to go, fun things to do, delicacies to eat, people to visit, etc.
 3. How to be a responsible tourist for the public, local community, and environment.
 4. Be a tour guide and showcase the trip with highlights, making sure that everyone can relate to your joy.
- Recommended Movie: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

Week 15 Game Week

"Hooray~"

Week 16 Ready to Farewell?

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." - A.A. Milne
Hopefully, you find it difficult to say goodbye, too.

- Objective: To conclude the 1st year's study and prepare them better for future language studies as well as personal development.
- Suggested Activity: Discussion
- Questions:
 1. What is your most unforgettable moment of this semester?
 2. What would you say to that you at the beginning of college?
 3. What change in yourself would you most willingly mention?
 4. Anything to say to anyone here?

Attendance:

Students who miss one class without an excuse will acquire a final score no higher than 89. Students who miss two classes without an excuse will acquire a final score no higher than 69. Students who miss three classes without an excuse will fail. Arriving late, leaving class during the lecture, or leaving the class early without an excuse will be recorded—missing class three times in any of these manners will be counted as one absence.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests, or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission. Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes. No late work will be accepted without instructor approval; it will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you will lose points for late work in this situation.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you will receive a "0" for that assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class