

ENGCMP140-1

Speaking and Listening

Course Information

Credit hours: 1

Room: TBA

Instructor:
Email:
Office:
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

What do we do with language? Your answers to this question will likely touch on a variety of aspects, all of which are reasonable given that we have been learning and using language since birth—or even before, when our mothers whispered to us before that very big day. Just as our great ancestors survived and evolved with the help of language, we use language to express and explore ourselves, to communicate and unite, and to perpetuate our cultures—the defining traits of human beings.

When it comes to communication, this is where our course officially begins. This required one-credit course is organized into 60-minute discussion sections that meet once a week. We designed this course to prepare you linguistically, mentally, and culturally for better cross-cultural communication. You will develop your confidence, fluency, and accuracy in verbal communication, improve your listening comprehension, and expand your vocabulary and cultural understanding through weekly activities. These activities are designed to challenge you to observe both your external and internal worlds more comprehensively, form your ideas more systematically, and communicate with different people on various topics more comfortably and efficiently.

Outcomes

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.

Objectives

In this course, students will complete the following:

| Assignment | Outcomes Addressed | Percentage of Final Grade |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Group Talk/ Game/ Storytelling/ Poem Reading | 1-5 | 70 |
| Presentation | 1-5 | 30 |

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

Session 1: Break the Ice Down! (Game)

Welcome to the class and meet these people with whom you will have to get along for the whole semester! We might experience some “ice” in the air when we first meet with others and every second may be stretched long enough to make the silence and awkwardness unbearable. That’s WHY we are breaking it down! It is said that games could help to warm it up and we do have an option: CHARADES.

- Preparation: Think about the following questions and bring your answers to class. You have to act out and other people may guess your answers accordingly.
 1. What’s your favorite food?
 2. What activity do you do in your spare time?
 3. What’s your favorite animal?
 4. Who is your favorite person?
 5. What’s your favorite sport?

Session 2: Me, Myself, and I (Group Talk)

Thanks to last week’s game, we got to know each other. But how well do you know yourself? Self-awareness is a lifelong journey, and we’ll start exploring it through Q&A.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Good Will Hunting*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. What are the three keywords to describe yourself?
 2. What animal do you think represents you the best?
 3. What are the three things that make you happy?
 4. What scares you?
 5. When did you have your best laugh and describe the situation?
 6. When was the last time you cried and why?

Session 3: Happy National Day Holidays! (Presentation)

Congratulations! You just had your first National Day Holidays of your college time! There must be something worth mentioning about it, so, share it with us!

- Preparation: Have a good review of your National Day Holidays and find something interesting. Prepare a PRESENTATION with slides (PowerPoint) and try to make it clear and most importantly, interesting! Or make a VLOG instead!

Session 4: Family--The House That Built Me (Group Talk)

As you begin college, you’ll likely be living farther from your family, representing both freedom and nostalgia. Let’s reflect on the places and people who shaped us.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Little Miss Sunshine*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. How do you define family with three keywords?
 2. What do you love the most about your family?
 3. Is there anything you dislike about your family?
 4. Tell us a little story about your family members/members that reflect your impression of your family.

Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 5: Friends--Stand by Me (Group Talk)

Life without friends is hard to imagine. Friends come into our lives in different ways and leave lasting impressions. Let’s delve into these relationships.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Green Book*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. What are the most three important elements of friendship?
 2. Do you remember your earliest friend of yours? Do you still contact her/him?
 3. Have you ever lost any friends? Do you miss her/him?
 4. Can friendship last forever? Or does it have to?
 5. What kind of friend are you?

Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 6: Ready to Love? (Group Talk)

Young as you are, it's never too early to discuss romance. You've heard about love in many forms—books, movies, songs, and maybe in real life. Let's explore this mysterious feeling together.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *La La Land*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. What question do you most want to ask about love?
 2. What colors would you use to portray your feelings for love?
 3. What is your ideal romantic relationship?
 4. What kind of person you might be in a relationship?Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 7: Big Small Talks (Instruction)

"Small talk can lead to big opportunities." Whoever saying it matters less than what it actually says. Casual conversations are self-evidently important but it is not always that easy to start a one. But don't worry, we are here to help.

Session 8: What's Going On (Game)

Session 9: A Good Education? (Group Talk)

Education shapes us deeply. We learn to read, listen, think, and speak through various influences. But what makes an education truly good?

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Dead Poets Society/The Chorus/ The Blind Side*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. What are the three keywords to describe your ideal education?
 2. Who is your favorite teacher (she/he does not have to be a professional teacher) all through your life? Please specify your reasons.
 3. What do you dislike the most about your education experiences?Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 10: Beacon in the Storm (Group Talk)

We all have role models who guide us, consciously or unconsciously. These figures might be close, distant, or even fictional. Let's explore the role models who have shaped us.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Young Woman and the Sea*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. Who is your role model and why?
 2. What type of "beacon" do you want to become to others? What does it take to be one?
 3. Are there any potential downsides to having role models? How can we balance admiration with realistic expectations?Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 11: I'm Loving It! (Presentation)

There must be something for everybody to be passionate about. Specifically, it means something that we love to do: dancing, soccer, video games, reading, or simply doing nothing. It can be anything!

- Preparation: Think about one thing that you are passionate about and tell us about it! Prepare a PRESENTATION with visual aid(PowerPoint/pictures/short videos...) and try to make it clear and most importantly, interesting! Or make a VLOG instead!

Session 12: Become Through the Ashes (Group Talk)

Adversity tests our resolve and challenges our spirit. Let's reflect on how these experiences shape and strengthen us.

- Preparation: Watch the movie *Hidden Figures*, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. What is the story that you would like to share with us about adversity? Did you succeed in surviving it?
 2. What did you learn from the experience?

3. Have you supported other people during their darkest time? What did you do?
Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 13: War and Peace (Storytelling)

The calls for peace suggest that wars are an ongoing reality. Understanding the nature of war and peace requires more than logic; it demands empathy. So we approach it by trying to stand in the shoes of the most relevant people, some preeminent truth shall reveal itself beyond reason and judgment.

- Preparation: Choose a role from the following options and create your own story of 3 minutes according to the role in the given context. Bring your stories to class and read them to others.
Your country, Joyland, is at war with its neighbor country, Peaceton, over several disputed islands, Freenesia, and they each claim sovereignty over it over decades.

Roles:

1. *A childless widow living in Joyland who lost her husband in the last war 12 years ago.*
2. *A doctor at Freenesian Central Hospital.*
3. *A journalist from a third country.*
4. *A soldier in the army of Peaceton with many friends living in Freenesia.*
5. *A teacher at a primary school in Joyland who has witnessed a teaching building being destroyed by a bomb.*
6. *A Freenesian artist whose lover was killed by several Peacetonian teenagers.*
7. *A college student who has just been reluctantly enlisted.*
8. *A military officer from Peaceton who was ordered to issue an airstrike order against the Joylandish civilians.*

Session 14: Would You Read Me A Poem? (Poem Reading)

No kidding. We are about to do a poetry session. Poems are never strangers to us, and I bet you can still recite a lot of them even though you have never really loved them. This week let's feel poetry for its own sake.

- Preparation: Bring an English poem to the class, and read it to everybody. It can be a poem that is written by yourself or others. But it must be something that you really feel. Also, think about the following questions, and bring your thoughts to class.
 1. Why do you choose this poem? What does it speak to you?
 2. What is so different about poems from other kinds of literature?
 3. Why do people write poems?
 4. What is the standard of good poems?Just feel free to bring in more thoughts and questions.

Session 15: Situation Puzzles (Game)

Session 16: And the Award Goes to (Award Ceremony)

Yes, you read it correctly. We are holding an award ceremony! Look how far you have come and how much you have accomplished. You deserve an award or more to honor your progress and simply who you are!

- Preparation:
 1. Create an award for yourself. Name it and explain why you deserve it.
 2. Think about your classmates. Give each one an award and name it.

Attendance

Students who miss more than two classes without an excuse will be deducted half of a letter grade for each additional absence (5 points out of a hundred from your final class average). 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.

Writing Center Policy: first instance will result in failure in assignment with option of re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

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