

English for Life Sciences
Course Syllabus
Fall 2018

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Course Information

Academic Credits: 3 credits
Course Code: 228.2013
Course Website: available on Moodle

Course Description

The course is an English for Specific Purposes (E.S.P) and an English for Academic Purposes (E.A.P.) course tailored to the needs of second year undergraduate Medical Sciences students at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Haifa.

In its broad sense, the course aims at improving the students' language skills in the area of life and medical sciences. The course focuses, in particular, on improving the students' academic English reading proficiency and analytical thinking skills as well as English communication skills.

The immediate objectives of the course are:

- **Development of greater competence in reading scientific and technical literature:** Since the principal goal of the course is effective reading of written scientific language and discourse, its emphasis is on text analysis. The course focuses on intensive reading of faculty-specific scientific texts at an advanced level. The students are exposed to authentic texts selected from top-level science journals and books that deal with a broad array of topics ranging from molecular cell biology to immunobiology, proteomics and protein dynamics, genetics and drug design.
- **Systematic expansion of academic and scientific vocabulary repertoire:** Scientific terms and academic vocabulary are introduced and taught on a regular basis, with the focus on word construction, meanings of stems and affixes of words, rules of affixation (including but not limited to Latin plurals), synonymy and polysemy (the use of words with multiple meanings).
- **Increased knowledge of grammar, in particular that of written scientific discourse:** The course aims at consciousness-raising in learning grammar. It is designed to give the students an opportunity to gain mastery of the syntactic structures and the grammatical constructions that are characteristic of scientific writing. Grammar instruction is discourse-and context-based.
- **Improvement of students' ability to present information in English clearly and effectively:** Though presentation skills are worthy of extreme obsessive study, basic presentation skills are introduced to help the students improve their ability to present and communicate effectively in a scientific context.

Assessment

	Percentage
1. Class Test	20%
2. Vocabulary Quiz	5%
3. Oral Scientific/Professional Presentation-PPT or Prezi (including your Elevator Pitch)	10%
5. Resume	10%
6. Attendance and Participation	5%
7. Final Exam	50%

The minimum passing course grade is 60

Course Requirements

1. Attendance:

Attendance is compulsory.

2. Exams:

All exams must be taken on the due dates.

- A Moed Bet will be given only for the final exam. Students will not be allowed to re-write quizzes to improve their grades.
- Make-ups for class quizzes will be administered only to students who have a justified absence on the date of a quiz.

3. Oral Presentation:

Each student must give a **ten-minute** oral presentation (including the student's elevator pitch to introduce himself/herself).

4. Resume:

Each student must craft and submit his/her resume formatted in accordance with the guidelines provided in the course.

Study Materials

1. Study materials are available on the course website on Moodle. Students are expected to bring their own materials to class.
2. A good English-English dictionary (conventional). It is highly recommended that students use such a dictionary throughout the course.
 - **Recommended Dictionaries**
 - ✓ *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Seventh edition, 2010. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - ✓ *Webster's College Dictionary*. 1997, New York: Random House.
 - ✓ *Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*. Third edition, 2001. Glasgow: Harper Collins Publishers.