The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 14 May 2008.
The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecificaion/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: English - Level 3 (5 Weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENS</td>
<td>7205</td>
<td>66854</td>
<td>2, 2007</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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</tbody>
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Academic group: INTOF
Academic org: INT002
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 091501

STAFFING

RATIONALE

The Upper-Intermediate course aims to develop students' language skills and strategies in reading, writing, listening and speaking to a level where they are prepared for the study of English of a more academic nature. NOTE: This course is provided for administrative purposes to allow students to enrol in 10 or 15 week courses or other periods of study, that extend across two semesters. It is not intended to be a stand-alone 5 week course.

SYNOPSIS

In this course, reading, writing and listening have been organised around skills that students need to develop at this level to cope with the academic language encountered in a university preparation course. Students perform a variety of tasks which require them to apply appropriate skills. Reading focuses on the process of reading, from previewing through to demonstrating a good understanding of the text. Writing also works through a process from brainstorming, organising ideas to writing first and final drafts. Speaking is designed to prepare students for more formal speaking such as presentations and to equip them with higher level functional language such as checking understanding, expressing an opinion, making suggestions and complaints. Listening provides opportunities for the students to know when and how skills such as listening for specific information, listening for gist and listening for main ideas and supporting details can be applied. A five-week course at the Upper-Intermediate level will include a selection of these topics and genres. The selection depends on where the student starts. Self-access at the Upper-Intermediate level aims at further developing students' ability to work independently of the teacher on individual language problems/needs.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course the student should be able to do a selection of the following, depending on where they started the course (Test in all Macroskills):

1. carry out most basic social activities and also begin to use oral English for more academic purposes;
2. use a variety of complex sentence forms and modifiers with reasonable correctness in both speaking and writing;
3. use a range of basic connectives and cohesive features correctly;
4. read a range of texts though not necessarily with a complete understanding;
5. read newspaper and magazine articles with a reasonable degree of comprehension;
6. present arguments in writing with a certain amount of clarity and coherence.
7. compare, evaluate, give opinions, criticise with some depth both orally and in writing

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Listening and speaking</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1. Using the functions of questioning, checking understanding, expressing an opinion, agreeing and disagreeing, giving advice, making suggestions and complaints</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2. Preparing and giving a formal presentation on a researched topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3. Tentatively providing logical and coherent arguments on topic in a debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4. Carrying on an extended conversation on topics of interest such as leisure, family issues, the environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5. Listening to a variety of passages or short news broadcasts for specific details</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6. Understanding the main points of short talks</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7. Taking notes from an extended talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Reading</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1. Scanning for specific information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Making sense of vocabulary using context, prefixes, suffixes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3. Skimming and previewing texts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4. Taking notes from a complex text</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5. Reading tables and graphs with confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.6. Understanding the structure of a variety of texts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.7. Reading extensively on a topic of interest</td>
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3. Writing  

3.1. Understanding purpose, tone, degree of formality through writing various types of letters and a CV  
3.2. Writing a longer description by grouping and sequencing information  
3.3. Writing essays: cause/effect, argument, compare/contrast  
3.4. Describing data in tabular and graphic form  
3.5. Using notes from research to write an essay  

4. Self-access  

4.1. Continuing to develop students' ability to work independently of the teacher  
4.2. Continuing to develop students' interest in and enjoyment of reading by providing a range of short novels  
4.3. Continuing to show students the importance of reviewing  
4.4. Continuing to give students an opportunity to work with other students on a task such as producing a class magazine  
4.5. Encouraging students to seek individual help with their writing  

**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED**  
ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).  


**REFERENCE MATERIALS**  
Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.  

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEST IN ALL MACROSKILLS</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>19 Oct 2007</td>
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</table>

(see note 1)

NOTES
1. Students will be advised in class of assessment due dates.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all classes and activities scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   N/A

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   N/A

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade, students must achieve a score of 50% on the final, "Test in All Macroskills".

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   As P is the only passing grade available in this course, all students who are qualified for a passing grade as in Assessment 4 will be given a grade of P. Students who have studied less than 15 weeks and are continuing their study in the same course will be given an IIP (Incomplete - in progress) grade. Students who have studied 15 weeks, but are not qualified for a passing grade as in Assessment Information 4 will be given an F. Students who have not studied 15 weeks and are not continuing will be given a PR (Pass - must repeat) grade.

6. Examination information:
   In a closed examination, candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Supplementary examinations will be offered to students who achieve a score of at least 45% at the discretion of the Examiner. These will be held at a time arranged by the Examiner, usually in the final week of the course.

8. University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. A selection of the topics will be covered depending on when the student starts.
2. The objectives covered for this course will depend on the selection of topics covered.