

Breaking (the) News

Levels B1-C2

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Learning goals

Current events are reported and analyzed differently depending on the country, the politics, the journalist, the point of view and the angle chosen. In this class, we will analyze news from British and American sources as well as from other Anglophone countries, the Middle East, Japan, Africa etc. in order to broaden our perspective.

Topics and articles will be chosen by the students. Group presentations will be given weekly after reading articles, listening to podcasts and soundbites, viewing news programs and political satire. Small group discussion and debate will also take place.

We will end each class by listening to an extract from a famous speech. Performing segments of the speech will be encouraged.

Learning objectives

The objectives of this course are for students to improve communication and comprehension in English and gain confidence speaking in public. They will build vocabulary concerning current events, be able to express opinions, debate and write summaries.

Course expectations

Students will actively participate in listening activities, discussions and debates and article reading with a group presentation and a passage from a famous speech. **Written summaries or 'minutes' after each class will be required and will count for 40% of the grade)**

Autonomy project

A 30-minute presentation beginning or ending with a game, question and answer section or a debate. In groups of 3 or 4, students will choose a topic for a presentation. They will decide on an outline or framework, then do in-depth research, sharing the work and creating a slide show using images, graphs and short video clips to further illustrate their theme. They are expected to vary their sources and produce a bibliography. Before the official presentation, the students should practice in front of each other and their PowerPoint should be submitted for correction.

Grading Grades are based on active participation (20%), presentations (40%) and 8 written summaries (40%).