

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for NESL 230A

### BEGINNING GRAMMAR FOR READING AND WRITING

Effective: Fall 2019

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: NESL 230A — Noncredit

This is the first semester of a one-year course in beginning grammar for academic purposes designed to enable students to understand and use English accurately, meaningfully and appropriately. The course focuses on the connection between vocabulary and grammar, simple and compound sentences, phrases, verb forms, and verb tenses, especially simple present, simple past, and present progressive. Students are advised to enroll concurrently in NESL 230A and NESL 231A, and ESL 133 or ESL 136.

#### **Strongly Recommended**

Placement through the ESL assessment process

#### **Grading Methods:**

Pass/No Pass

#### **Discipline:**

- ESL: Noncredit

#### **Noncredit Category**

A - English As A Second Language (ESL)

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
|                               | <b>MIN</b>   |
| <b>Total Noncredit Hours:</b> | <b>54.00</b> |

#### II. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### III. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Name, use, and spell basic grammar terminology
- B. Distinguish subject, verb, and object in simple and compound sentences
- C. Apply basic grammatical rules to produce the correct word order in simple and compound sentences
- D. Comprehend and use verbs in the "0-500 Most Frequent Words" list in the simple present, simple past, and present progressive verb tense
- E. Comprehend and use non-action/stative verbs
- F. Identify verbs in a sentence as linking, intransitive, or transitive
- G. Recall and use the correct simple past and past participle forms of verbs on the "0-500 Most Frequent Words" list
- H. Comprehend and use basic modals and verbal expressions to express ability in the present and past
  - I. Comprehend and use the correct form of irregular nouns, adjectives, and adverbs on the "0-500 Most Frequently Used Words" list
- J. Comprehend and use high frequency prepositions
- K. Use an English language learner dictionary effectively to find information about a word, including the pronunciation, the part of speech, the type of noun, the type of verb, multiple word forms, and definition/s

#### IV. CONTENT:

- A. Parts of Speech
- B. Basic parts of a sentence (subject, verb, object)
- C. Word Order (simple and compound sentences; adjectives and adverbs)
- D. Verbs
  1. Verb Tense
    - a. Simple present, simple past, and present progressive/continuous
  2. Verb Types
    - a. Linking, intransitive, transitive, action, and non-action
  3. Verb Forms
    - a. Base, simple past, past participle, present participle of verbs on the "0-500 Most Frequently Used Words" list
- E. Modals
  1. Affirmative and negative of present and past ability
- F. Word forms
  1. Forms of nouns, adjectives, and adverbs on the "0-500 Most Frequently Used Words" list
- G. Pronouns
  1. Subject, object, possessive
- H. Articles
  1. Indefinite and definite articles
- I. Prepositional phrases

1. Especially high frequency prepositions of place and time
- J. Dictionary
  1. Use of an English language learner dictionary to find significant information about a word
- K. Technology
  1. Use of course website (such as Canvas) to find homework assignments, class syllabus, posted activities and links, instructor information, etc.

#### V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** - for example, explaining the formation and use of simple past tense
- B. **Classroom Activity** - for example, analysis of grammar in an authentic text
- C. **Discussion** - for example, small group discussion of the difference between simple present and present progressive tense
- D. **Individualized Instruction** - for example, working one-on-one to assist with a student's formation of a verb tense
- E. **Projects** - for example, individual or small group projects covering a specific grammar concept

#### VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Writing Tasks
  1. Write five true sentences about yourself with the verb "be" followed by either an adjective, a noun phrase, or a prepositional phrase
  2. Write five true sentences about someone you know well. Tell about the person's daily life. Do not use a pronoun as the subject of the sentence. Use appropriate adverbs of frequency such as always, usually, or often
  3. Write five true sentences about someone you know well. Tell about things the person did last week. Do not use a pronoun as the subject of the sentence. Use appropriate adverb expressions of time
- B. Reading/Analysis Tasks
  1. Complete cloze exercises with either random or specific deletions
  2. Find and copy five sentences with the target grammar from one essay in the extensive reading book
  3. Change the verb tense in a paragraph and change the adverbial signals as appropriate
  4. Identify and correct errors in a sample reading passage
  5. Identify the definite and indefinite articles in a passage and discuss the reasons for each
  6. Identify the subjects, verbs, object(s), and prepositional phrases in a sample reading passage

#### VII. EVALUATION:

##### Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
  - Minimum of two, including a department-created comprehensive final
- B. Quizzes
  - Minimum of every other week
- C. Class Work
  - Weekly
- D. Home Work
  - Approximately 6 hours per week

#### VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Murphy, R. (2017). *Basic Grammar in Use Student's Book with Answers and Interactive eBook* (4 ed.). New York, New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Elbaum, S. (2016). *Grammar in Context Basic* (6 ed.). Boston, Massachusetts: Cengage.
3. Fuchs, M., & Bonner, M. (2004). *Grammar Express Basic With Answer Key* (1 ed.). White Plains, New York: Pearson Education, Inc.
4. Fuchs, M., & Bonner, M. (2004). *Grammar Express Basic Workbook* (1 ed.). White Plains, New York: Pearson Education ESL.
5. Marquis, M., & Nielsen, S. (2010). *One World Many Voices Our Cultures* (1 ed.). Livermore, CA: Wingspan Press.
6. Longman Dictionary of American English, 5th Edition, Pearson ELT, 2014

#### IX. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: