

# ENGLISH LISTENING AND SPEAKING: LEVEL 2

S4: Monday, Period 7-8 Fall 2013

Instructor: Professor Sonia Meyer, School of Foreign Languages

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## Course Description

This course is designed to improve your English listening and speaking abilities through a brief introduction of American culture.

## Reading Materials

Greenall, S. (2008). *New standard college English real communication: Listening and speaking*  
2. Beijing, China: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

## Assignments

Presentations: There are 12 topics and classes, not including the first day, in which you will have the opportunity to speak. You may choose **2 topics** on which to present. It is your responsibility to make sure that you present 2 times during the semester and you will lose points if you do not. The class before we will discuss topic X and I will distribute a sign up sheet for the following week's presentation on topic X. Each presentation may be very informal and is not to exceed 3 minutes per student. The other students are expected to attentively listen and ask questions at the end.

Quizzes: On the quiz days, as indicated by the calendar below, we will have a quiz after the break. The structure of the quiz will be to listen to a short dialogue or video and answer two questions about the audio. I will play the audio twice and then give you time to answer the two questions.

Class Participation: This is a major percentage of your grade meaning it is very important! Attendance is required and especially important for language learning. **I expect students to participate by speaking in class, asking questions, and talking during group discussions.**

Midterm Project: Watch one season of an American TV show and write 2 pages answering the following questions: **“What is your opinion of the show? What do you think will happen next season?”**

I recommend using Sohu and watching a few episodes every week. Try to really listen to the English dialogue and not rely on the Chinese subtitles. My favorite shows are: *Raising Hope*, *Vampire Diaries*, and *Orange is the New Black*.

Final Exam: The final exam will test your English speaking and listening abilities. The listening portion of the exam will be similar to the quizzes and in class activities. The speaking portion of the exam will be a conversation with me.

Extra Credit: There are several extra credit opportunities in which you can gain valuable experiences and earn more credit for the course. Students who complete all three will get a special prize!

1. Join the International English debating club. Attend a meeting or a debate and write 1 page about your experiences.
2. Attend a lecture by a foreign professor (English-speaking) and write 1 page about your thoughts on his or her lecture.
3. Find an English-speaking language partner (online or in person) and write 1 page about your experiences.

### Grading Rubric

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Class Participation | 30 |
| 2 Presentations     | 16 |
| Midterm Project     | 16 |
| 4 Listening Quizzes | 8  |
| Final Exam          | 30 |

### Policies and Expectations

Each unexcused absence will result in point deduction from your final grade. If you happen to miss a class for legitimate reasons, e.g. sickness, accident, please let the teacher know ahead of time. Frequent late arrival or early departure will be counted as absence. Put cell phones on silent and limit computer use to taking notes. **Please only use English during class time.**

| Week | Take Notice                | Topics  | Holidays                    |
|------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2    |                            | Informality                                     | Fall Festival               |
| 3    | <b>Quiz</b>                | Family  |                             |
| 4    |                            | Politics  | National Holiday (Tues-Fri) |
| 5    |                            | Politics  | National Holiday (Mon)      |
| 6    | <b>Quiz</b>                | Technology                                      | Columbus Day (Mon)          |
| 7    |                            | Recreation                                      |                             |
| 8    | <b>Midterm Project Due</b> | Education                                       | Halloween (Thurs)           |
| 9    |                            | Pop Culture                                     | Guy Fawkes Day (Tues)       |
| 10   | <b>Quiz</b>                | Holidays  |                             |
| 11   |                            | Globalization                                   |                             |
| 12   |                            | Socialization                                   | Thanksgiving (Thurs)        |
| 13   | <b>Quiz</b>                | Minorities                                      |                             |
| 14   |                            | Inequality                                      |                             |
| 15   |                            | Student's Choice<br><i>TV/Movies &amp; Food</i> |                             |
| 16   | <b>Final Exam</b>          |   | Christmas (Wed)             |