



University of Waterloo

Winter 2016

Course number: EMLS 110R
Course name: Canadian Academic Culture
Instructor:
Office:
Tel:
E-mail:
Class time
& Location:

Office Hours:

Course description:

This course aims to prepare and help students in their studies at a Canadian university. The course focuses on developing students' academic 'survival' skills as well as communication skills in order for students to be successful at university and in their future careers. It is designed to help students excel not only academically but also personally and aims to assist them in their new learning and living environments. Developing coherent ideas, writing academic papers, acknowledging writing sources, presenting formal presentations as well as demonstrating critical thinking skills are some of the activities students will be engaged in during this course. Not open to fluent speakers or writers of English.

Course Description

This course is for students whose first language is not English. By the end of this course, successful students will be able to

- understand and apply academic ethics: citing sources and referencing
- distinguish between acceptable/unacceptable approaches to one-on-one and group discussions (with peers and professors)
- learn interview skills, communication strategies, and effective body language
- critically evaluate and present various sources of information (e.g. articles) and explain complex ideas/concepts clearly and effectively
- actively participate in an academic environment and exchange information on academic topics
- predict, identify, define, summarize, and paraphrase
- expand and use academic vocabulary in written and oral communication

Required Text

A course pack will be made available on LEARN. Students are expected to bring along the course pack to class. Hand-outs that are not part of the course pack will be made available on LEARN.

Grading

Student grades will be weighted in the following manner for a total of **100%**:

Assignment 1: a) Compare/contrast Presentation based on Written Survey	10%
b) Survey Findings	5%
Assignment 2: a) Individual Presentation based on Summary	15%
b) Written Assignment: Summary	15%
Assignment 3: a) Discussion based on Problem/solution	10%
b) Written Assignment: Problem/solution Outline	5%
Weekly Reflection Journal & Interviews	10%
In-class Participation and Professionalism	10%
Final Test	20%

***Please note:** Detailed hand-outs concerning the assignments and presentations will be given in class.

Participation and Professionalism (10% total): Students are responsible for attending and engaging in all class activities in a respectful and active manner. Audience participation is as important as presentation preparation. Students are expected to maintain regular attendance, and **to arrive to class on time**. It is the sole responsibility of the student to catch up on lecture material missed due to absenteeism and/or lateness. **Cell phones and laptops must remain off during class.**

Assignment #1:

Compare/Contrast Presentation (10% total): In pairs, students will create and conduct a survey about differences between the Western education system and their country's education systems. They will then prepare and give a 8-10 minute compare/contrast presentation based on their survey's findings. A Q & A session will follow.

Written Assignment 1: Survey Findings (5%): Students will hand in the survey questions and findings of their surveys after their presentation.

Assignment #2:

Individual Presentation (15% total): Students will create and present a 15- minute informative presentation from a reading from the course pack. The presentation will be based on the written summary students will have to hand in after their presentation. A Q & A session will follow.

Written Assignment 2: Summary (15%): Students will write a summary from a reading from the course pack and hand it in after their presentation.

Assignment #3:

Group Discussion (10%): In pairs, students will introduce a problem (a choice of problems will be discussed in the course pack) and present some possible solutions. The 15-minute discussion will be based on the problem-solution outline students will have to hand in after their presentation. A Q & A will follow.

Written Assignment 3: Problem-solution Outline (5%): Students will write a problem-solution outline based on a problem from a list of possible problems they will have chosen from the course pack and hand it in after their presentation.

Weekly Reflection Journal (10%): Students will write journal entries/reflections every week beginning Week 3 and submit their entries to a drop-box on LEARN on how they are dealing with various new experiences: dealing with language barriers/ cultural barriers, academic issues, sense of belonging, etc., as well as what strategies they are using to deal with these new experiences. Interviews will be held with students in Weeks 4 & 10 to discuss their progress throughout the term and future plans to make their studies more successful.

Final Test (20% total): Students will take home one final test that will cover vocabulary, listening and critical thinking skills. An oral test, based on the take-home test's material will be held on the last day of class. Students will prepare and participate in a 15-minute group discussion based on a topic related to the take-home test material. Students will be marked individually.

Attendance Policy: Each absence results in -1% of your final grade to a maximum of -5% (five absences). If you are absent more than five classes, your instructor may not allow you to continue with the class. Absences on assignment days do not receive the -1% penalty, however, you must have a valid doctor's note in order to make up the assignment and receive a grade. Regular class attendance is essential as all teaching and practices are done in class. Instructors are strict about attendance.

EMLS 110R Course Outline: Winter 2016

	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Introduction to the course	Identifying and labeling educational methods of teaching and learning in own culture	Predicting educational methods of teaching in the West International Student Experiences – Adjusting to a new culture
Week 2	Introduction to Language & Communication: Asking various types of questions & learning interview skills	Language & Communication cont'd Survey Introduction/Lead-in	Outline for Assignment #1 Class time to work on Survey Questions
Week 3	PPP: How to present findings; using graphs, charts, data, etc.	Public Speaking: Signpost language; compare/contrast language How to write a Survey Report	Introduction to Journal Writing
Week 4	Compare/contrast Presentations	Compare/contrast Presentations	Compare/contrast Presentations
Week 5	Compare/contrast Presentations	Librarian visits Western emphasis on individualism and intellectual property	Journal Reflection Interviews *Written Assignment #1 Due
Week 6	General to Specific Writing Paraphrasing skills & strategies	Paraphrasing skills & strategies cont'd	Writing a Summary
Week 7	Writing a Summary cont'd: In-class Writing Workshop	Public Speaking: Coherency & Comprehensibility in Speaking Introducing a Speaker	Introductions Practice
Week 8	Individual Presentations	Individual Presentations	Individual Presentations
Week 9	Individual Presentations	Introduction to Discussions *Written Assignment #2 Due	Introducing Problem-Solution Outline

Week 10	How to effectively communicate: Group setting Giving & receiving feedback	Discussions Practice	Journal Reflection Interviews
Week 11	Group Discussions	Group Discussions	Group Discussions
Week 12	Group Discussions	Course / instructor evaluation Review for Final Test *Written Assignment #3 Due	Final Test Last Day of Class

**Unforeseeable events might require alterations to this schedule.*

SAMPLE