

English for Specific Purposes: Summer 2008 Course Descriptions



All courses are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. They may be taken for a grade, or on a pass/not pass basis. Course levels begin at low-intermediate. We do not offer courses for beginning-level ESL students.

A. Academic Research

The Berkeley campus offers a wide variety of research resources, including some of the world's best libraries. In this class, you will learn how to find, evaluate, and write about sources. You will learn how to use the library effectively, locate and evaluate Internet resources, and write using standard citation formats, including MLA and APA. *Suitable for high-intermediate through advanced students. Native English speakers welcome.*

B. Academic Vocabulary

Academic writing and speaking requires a wide understanding of vocabulary. You will learn strategies for improving vocabulary development, including effective ways to build vocabulary and recall new vocabulary through a series of readings, writing, and other class activities. *Suitable for high-intermediate through advanced students. Native English speakers welcome.*

C. Academic Writing (onsite & online)

Effective writing is important throughout college and career. In this class, you will learn about the content, structure and organization of academic essays. You will also work on correctly incorporating research into essays. Advanced sentence structures, summarizing, paraphrasing, correct use of citations, and proofreading skills will be addressed. Activities will include sentence level exercises, individual in-class writing assignments, and group writing activities. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced students. Native English speakers welcome.*

D. Business English (onsite only)

Improved communication will help you in the business world. In this course, you will improve your communication skills in order to do business in English. The following topics will be covered: negotiating, speaking at business meetings, doing presentations, writing business letters and memos, telephoning, business vocabulary, business social skills, case studies, and Internet business. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

E. Business English for the Internet (online only)

In this course, you will improve your ability to communicate effectively using business English for the Internet. You will read and discuss articles and other materials, learn business-related vocabulary and idioms, practice business writing, and share information about international business customs with the rest of the class. Topics to be covered include multicultural communication, email, work styles, technology, e-commerce, and globalization. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

F. Business Speaking

Learning to speak persuasively, accurately, and clearly will improve your business skills. This class will focus on speaking English in business situations. You will gain confidence in the language of meetings, presentations, negotiations, and informal business situations. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

G. Communication Skills for Conflict Resolution

This course gives students the opportunity to improve their communication skills while learning about the growing field of "alternative dispute resolution," the use of negotiation and mediation to resolve business, legal, family and community disputes. Course activities will require you to develop a complex set of English skills (speaking, listening, grammatical accuracy, using new vocabulary and idioms) and cultural skills (appropriate body language, formality, tone) and help you improve your general fluency. By the end of the course, you will have effective tools to prevent and resolve disputes and to communicate more effectively in general. *Suitable for intermediate through advanced ESL students. Native speakers welcome.*

H. Grammar for Editing

Learning to edit well will make you a better writing. In this class, you will improve your writing through grammar, structure, and editing activities. You will use your own writing as a text, and help to improve your skills and solve your individual writing problems. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced students. Native English speakers welcome.*

I. Film and Society

Have you ever wanted to better understand a film you've just seen in a theater or at home on video? Practice your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills by studying contemporary issues and learning about how the elements of film— script, cinematography, sound, lighting, and more—work together to help build a film's story and themes. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced students.*

J. Introduction to U.S. Law

The course covers the federal and state court systems, judge and jury trials, the case law method, and selected areas of law based on student interest (e.g., contracts, constitutional law, criminal law, torts). The course requires students to use new vocabulary and idioms; read and analyze judges' decisions; organize, write and edit legal arguments; give oral presentations; and participate in formal and informal discussions and role-plays. Students will view and analyze at least one film and attend at least one court hearing or trial. *Suitable for intermediate through advanced ESL students. This course is of special interest to business and legal professionals and students, including LL.M. students who wish to prepare for the fall semester at U.S. law schools.*

K. Literature

Literature offers wonderful opportunities to understand societal and interpersonal conflicts, develop vocabulary, and refine your analytical skills. In this class, you will read a variety of literature from different cultures. You will be engaged in close reading—understanding the small details of a text. You will be expected to read, write, and speak about the texts and themes you read. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

L. Oral Presentation

In this highly interactive course, you will learn, practice, and evaluate the skills needed to give different types of oral presentations in academic settings. You will learn the language and techniques needed to connect and emphasize ideas so that your audience can easily understand them. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

M. Pronunciation

This course focuses on acquiring strategies that make it easy to produce clear and intelligible American English. Using video and audio files, theatre games, stories, and other sources of authentic speech, you will focus on the most important features of American English (and how they differ from your native language). *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*

N. TOEFL iBT Preparation (online only)

Get ready for the Internet-based TOEFL! The iBT TOEFL examination includes sections on writing and speaking, in addition to the more familiar sections featuring listening and reading. In this class, you will prepare for the TOEFL examination through practice tests, grammar instruction, writing, and speaking practice. You will also learn about and develop effective test-taking strategies. *Suitable for low-intermediate through advanced ESL students.*
