

**ESL 9: TOEFL iBT Preparation**  
**Summer 2007 Syllabus**

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**Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to help you feel confident and well-prepared when taking the new Internet-based TOEFL (iBT). In this course, you will polish the language and computer skills needed for the exam, thereby making you a better test-taker. The course starts with an introduction to the new iBT format. You will then learn the types of questions in the reading, listening, speaking, and writing parts of the test, as well as test-taking strategies for each section. Finally, you will be provided with opportunities to take a few practice tests for each section. There will be daily homework assignments in all language skill areas, including vocabulary. This course will be of interest to the student who would like to take the not only the TOEFL in the future, but the iBT in particular.

**Course Materials**

**Textbook:** *The official guide to the new TOEFL iBT*, McGraw-Hill, 2006

***We are going to use an e-book for the purpose of this on-line course. Do NOT buy a paper version until further notice.***

**Equipment**

In order to participate fully in this course, students must have certain hardware and software. More specifically, to access and interact with Berkeley's web portal, bSpace, students must have access to the following:

- Internet access, preferably hi-speed
- An English-compatible operating system (e.g., Microsoft XP or Apple OS X)
- A media player that can play .mp3 files (e.g., MS Windows Media Player, Quicktime, RealPlayer)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (7.0 or later)
- MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint, and Word)

Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded freely at:  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

## **Grades**

Your grade will be based on the completion of homework assignments and individual test scores. You must successfully meet the 70% of the class standard in order to receive a passing grade. Percentage weights for each area of the class are as follows:

- Homework 50%
- Skill section practice tests 20%
- Complete practice test 30%

## **Final Exam**

Your final exam will be a complete practice test. You will need four hours of uninterrupted time during the final week of instruction in order to complete the exam.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Getting familiar with Blackboard  
Getting familiar with the iBT  
Main features  
Formats  
Sample test (Diagnostic)

### **Week 2: Reading**

iBT reading passages  
Reading question types:  
Basic information and inference  
Reading to learn  
Learning and test-taking strategies for reading  
Reading practice

### **Week 3: Listening**

iBT listening materials  
Listening questions types:  
Basic comprehension  
Pragmatic understanding  
Connecting information  
Learning and test-taking strategies for listening  
Listening practice

**Week 4: Speaking**

- Speaking task types
  - Independent speaking tasks
  - Integrated speaking tasks
- Speaking scoring rubric
- Learning and test-taking strategies for speaking
- Speaking practice

**Week 5: Writing**

- Writing task types
  - Integrated writing task
  - Independent writing task
- Writing scoring rubric
- Organization and development of an essay
- Learning and test-taking strategies for writing
- Writing practice

**Week 6: Review & Practice Test**

- Review of class
- Future study plan: how can you become better at the TOEFL?
- Final Exam: Practice Test (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing)