

Current Affairs English

The University of Suwon, Spring 2017

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Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to provide you with the skills necessary to be a confident and independent speaker when discussing important current affairs. The course will focus on the following goals:

- Development of vocabulary and idioms related to a wide range of subjects as discussed in class
- Role-playing and pair work to become a more confident speaker
- Problem-solving and team work to develop critical thinking and speaking, and interpersonal skills

Course Guidelines:

- You are all adults, please act respectfully and courteously in class at all times
- Please place all Smartphones on silent and use them only as directed by the professor
- Smartphone use for dictionaries is allowed and encouraged
- Be on time, be prepared, and be happy – this course will be more rewarding and valuable to you if you approach it with the proper attitude and diligence

Expectations:

- Attend and participate actively in all general class sessions
- Complete all required activities, and any related assignments
- Make all assigned pair, group, and class presentations

Course Materials:

Everything will be provided by the teacher without cost.

NOTE: This is a skills-based course that requires participation and effort during every class session and regular practice outside of class. Students will not improve their English skills without a personal commitment to serious effort.

Policies: To complete a course, students must attend at least 75% of classes. That is, if students miss class more than four times, they will fail the course. For every missed class student will be deducted 5% off their overall grade. *****Even if you do miss class, you will still be required to do the weekly assignment.*****

- Excused Absences: There are NO excused absences.
- Tardiness: Late for more than the first half of the class hour = 1 unexcused absence; 3 times late by five to 29 minutes = 1 unexcused absence
- Missed Exam: Missing an examination will result in an automatic grade of F for the exam and will most likely result in a grade of F for the course. There will be no makeup exam.
- Grading: In-class presentations = 40% (maximum of 4% per presentation x 10 presentations); Mid-term exam: 20%; Final Exam = 20%; Participation = 20%
- In-class assignments will ALL be group presentations given in the form of a prepared critical thinking project. The material is provided and discussed in the second-half of the class and it is presented the following week in the first-half of the class.

Breaking News English Schedule March 2017:

Week 1 (February 28) Orientation, placement test, distinguishing between 'fake' and 'real' news sources; Week 2 (March 7) Impossible Exam {education}; Week 3 (March 14) Euthanasia {society}; Week 4 (March 21) Genetically-Modified Foods {health}; Week 5 (March 28) Freedom of the Press {international affairs}; Week 6 (April 4) Hip-Hop Psychology {music}; Week 7 (April 11) the Galapagos Islands {ecology}; Week 8 (April 18) Artificial Intelligence {technology}; **Week 9 (April 25) Mid-Term Examination;** Week 10 (May 2) Youth Unemployment Stress {psychology}; Week 11 (May 9) Overtime and Work Life {society}; Week 12 (May 16) HSBC Scandal {economy}; Week 13 (May 23) Whizzkid {youth}; Week 14 (May 30) New Year's Resolutions {culture}; Week 15 (June 6) Sony Hacking Scandal {crime};

Week 16 (June 13) Final Exam **NOTE: This is a 'current affairs' course and thus content is subject to change along with trends in the news.**