**BBN-AME-204: American Language Development 2**

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| **Instructor** | Reka Feher | **E-mail** | Feher.reka.d@gmail.com  |
| **Office** | Room 439 | **Office Hours** | Tuesday 1300-1500 |

### Course Description:

### This class is an introduction to American academic writing. Emphasis will be placed on the academic communication skills necessary to function in the academic environment of a university. We will discuss how to communicate properly with professors, your academic colleagues, and compose material for formal communication.

This class will give you the basic expectations and teach you the rules for academic writing so that you can further your knowledge during your studies. We will be focusing on argumentative writing, the basic structure of an essay, and the rules of academic communication.

**Attendance:** Come to every single class. The university allows you to miss three (3) classes, if you miss four (4) you fail for the entire semester. If you bring a doctor’s note or some kind of official paper explaining why you were absent, it still counts as an absence. I take note of all late students. Two (2) late occasions equal one (1) missed class. It adds up very quickly, so arrange your matters accordingly. It is your responsibility to know how many classes you have missed and how many times you have been late. I will not remind you at every class.

If I see you using your phone in class, you will be marked absent. That includes taking notes or researching for in-class essays. Please refrain from checking your email or Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc. during class. If I find you not paying attention during class and looking at other stuff on your chosen piece of technology you will be sent out of the room. If your mind is not on the class there is no reason for you to be there, bothering others who want to pay attention and learn.

**Class Participation:** Discussion and class writing are an absolute necessity in this course. You will be graded on your participation during in-class discussions, group activities, and in-class writing assignments. If you are not in class, you are not practicing and participating in English. Your in-class writing assignments will be included in your participation grade. If you choose to not do them, points will be deducted accordingly. You can fail up to three in-class writing assignments, a fourth failure will result in lowering your semester grade. Missing an in-class writing assignment because you choose not to write it for whatever reason will result in a failure. Furthermore, simply being able to "speak good English" will not be enough to pass the writing assignments.

**Home essays:** You will be writing one 1000 word essay this semester, however, you will be rewriting it two times. The course will take you through all the steps of writing a successful essay. We will be discussing how to reflect on your writing and how to rewrite what you have. Although each of these can be considered a “draft” they need to be formatted according to MLA from the beginning. At each step of the writing process we will focus on different aspects of your writing, slowly building up to a finished essay by the end of the semester.

There will be one peer review during the semester. You need to take part in this as well and leave constructive criticism on your peers’ essays. This is to further your skills in reflection and to practice giving useful criticism to each other.

You will be handing in your homework online, therefore, there is no flexibility for deadlines. I understand that you work, you get sick, you are tired, etc. but since these assignments need to be handed in online, so there is really no reason for you not to be able to hand them in on time.

There are several ways to fail this class:

1. Four (4) absences, meaning either you did not show up to class four times or it is a combination of not showing up and being chronically late.
2. Plagiarism. It is a serious crime with serious consequences. If I find plagiarism in any of your writing, you will fail the semester automatically. There are two (2) uploaded pdfs on what plagiarism is. We will have an entire class on plagiarism. If you are still unsure, here is an extra guide: <http://seaswiki.elte.hu/studies/plagiarism>
3. If during the semester and while you are rewriting your essay I do not see even one character of change, as in, you either choose to ignore any and all advice and comments you receive on your essays or you just do not want to put the work in, you will fail for the semester.
4. If you choose a topic to write your essay on that you have not ok-d with me, or that I told you not to choose, you will fail for the semester.

**Evaluation**: Class Participation: 30%

 Peer Grading: 10%

Essay drafts (3): 60%

**Final Course Grades**:

***All* of the above will need to be completed and not more than three missed classes for the following grades to be assigned.**

100% to 90% = 5

89% to 80% = 4

79% to 70% = 3

69% to 60% = 2

**Rules of the class:** No off color language will be tolerated (I can joke, you can joke, but we will not put someone down, we will not make anyone feel uncomfortable). You must turn your mobiles off or silence them when you enter the classroom. If you are late, do not knock, just come in as unobtrusively as possible and take a seat. I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time.

**Important link:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15k8Tue_Dv5h_LXOND8lww4eeF9AZRU3i?usp=sharing>

Schedule Spring 2019

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|  | Class | Subject | Notes and links |
| 1 | Feb 11 | Introduction |  |
| 2 | Feb 18 | Argumentation and Choosing a Topic | <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/588/04/> |
| 3 | Feb 25 | Research and Acceptable Sources | Topics Due in class |
| 4 | Mar 4 | Thesis Statement and Plagiarism | Bring 2 pdfs on plagiarism to class |
| 5 | Mar 11 | What’s an Outline and what’s it for? | Outlines Due in class<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/588/1/> |
| 6 | Mar 18 | MLA, Citations, Paraphrasing, Works Cited | <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/><https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/><https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/> |
| 7 | Mar 25 | Research and Results | First Draft Due upload by start of class |
| 8 | Apr 1 | Compare/Contrast |  |
| 9 | Apr 8 | Structural Issues |  |
| 10 | Apr 15 | Peer Review Criteria | Second Draft Due upload by start of class |
| 11 | Apr 22 | Spring Break | Enjoy! |
| 12 | Apr 29 | Introduction and Conclusion | Peer Review Due |
| 13 | May 6 | Individual Consultations | Sign up on time! |
| 14 | May 13 | No class | Third and Final Draft Due upload by end of day |