**American Language Development 1**

**Description and Syllabus**

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| Instructor | William Hoversen | E-mail | whoversen@gmail.com |
| Office | Room 439 | Office Hours | 8:00 – 10:00 Thursday  (Or by Appointment) |

**Course Description:**

In this course, the first part of language practice, students will learn to apply the critical thinking techniques learned in earlier classes in a setting of formal debate. The reason that this is done is to provide the student a strong incentive to learn how to argue logically and intelligently in English; this skill will be crucial in later life, and more importantly, in your thesis work and further studies.

**Attendance:** Policy is simple. Come to class. If you miss more than three sessions, you fail, automatically. Arrange your matters accordingly.

If you are late, I note it. If you’re chronically late, I will simply make it an absence. Arrange your life accordingly. You are a student in university.

Attendance also means no usage of phones during class, no checking your email or Facebook. If you do, I mark you absent, since you’re obviously not here in class. I will also kick you out of the room, since, if your mind is not there, why should you be there, bothering others who want to pay attention and learn? It isn’t fair to them, or to me.

**Evaluation:** Five Graded Debates (4x 25%=100%)

* Your lowest scoring debate will be dropped from your final grade.
* Missing a debate will NOT count as your dropped grade. An absence for a graded debate will absolutely be counted as a “0” in your final grade and will be averaged with three other debates.

**Texts:** None

**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 of total points = 5

89 to 80 of total points = 4

79 to 70 of total points = 3

69 to 60 of total points = 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 should turn your mobiles off when you enter the classroom. If you are late, do not knock, just come in as unobtrusively as possible and take a seat.

Schedule Fall 2018

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|  | Date | Subject |
| 1 | Sept 13 | Introduction to Debate – The Dos and Don’ts of Debating   * Winning a debate * Evaluating Sources |
| 2 | Sept 20 | Debating and the Highest Office – The Effects of Debate in American Politics and Media. |
| 3 | Sept 27 | Counter Arguments and Refutations  Logical Fallacies |
| 4 | Oct 4 | Building a Debate:  Format of Formal Debate  Argument Construction and Practice Debate  First Debate Topic Selected |
| 5 | Oct 11 | First Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 6 | Oct 18 | Second Topic Selection and Prep |
| 7 | Oct 25 | Second Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 8 | Nov 1 | National Holiday |
| 9 | Nov 8 | Third Graded Debate Topic Selection and Prep |
| 10 | Nov 15 | Third Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 11 | Nov 22 | Fourth Graded Debate Setup and Prep |
| 12 | Nov 29 | Fourth Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 13 | Dec 6 | Fifth Graded Debate Topic Selection and Prep |
| 14 | Dec 13 | Fifth Graded Debate and Feedback |

\* This syllabus is subject to change at the lecturer’s discretion.