**American Language Development 1**

**Description and Syllabus**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Instructor | William Hoversen | E-mail | whoversen@gmail.com |
| Office | Room 432 | Office Hours | 10:00-11:30 Thursday |

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

**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 2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Date | Subject |
| 1 | Sept 12 | Introduction to Debate – The Dos and Don’ts of Debating   * Winning a debate |
| 2 | Sept 19 | Counter Arguments and Refutations  Logical Fallacies |
| 3 | Sept 26 | What Constitutes a Good Source? The Pitfalls of Internet Research |
| 4 | Oct 3 | Building a Debate: Argument Construction and Practice Debate Setup and Prep  Good Debates vs. Bad Debates |
| 5 | Oct 10 | First Topic Selected |
| 6 | Oct 17 | First Graded Debate Setup and Prep |
| 7 | Oct 24 | First Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 8 | Oct 31 | National Holiday |
| 9 | Nov 7 | Second Graded Debate Setup and Prep |
| 10 | Nov 14 | Second Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 11 | Nov 21 | Third Graded Debate Setup and Prep |
| 12 | Nov 28 | Third Graded Debate and Feedback |
| 13 | Dec 5 | Fourth Graded Debate Setup and Prep |
| 14 | Dec 12 | Fourth Graded Debate and Feedback |

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