Advanced English Grammar (AEG)_sample syllabus
Intensive English Language Program
Portland State University

Materials:  (available at the PSU bookstore)

Course Textbook:  *Top 20: Great Grammar for Great Writing. 2nd Ed by Folse, Solomon, & Smith-Palinkas*
(ISBN-10: 0618789677)

The answer key is here:  [http://www.scribd.com/doc/50819659/Top-20-Great-Grammar-for-Great-Writing-Answer-Key#scribd](http://www.scribd.com/doc/50819659/Top-20-Great-Grammar-for-Great-Writing-Answer-Key#scribd)

Other:  lined paper, highlighter pens, pencils, and an eraser

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The aim of this course is to improve production of the grammar used in academic writing. Academic vocabulary in context will be emphasized in student writing. Students will learn to control more complex structures in grammar in order to express more complex ideas in academic written discourse. Through writing and reading activities you will work on developing a better understanding and control of such structures as well as be able to use them with academic vocabulary. Self-editing is encouraged. Prerequisite skills include a basic foundation in English grammar, correct use of verb tenses, and the ability to write simple, compound, and complex sentences.

COURSE CONTENT:
By the end of the class you should be able to identify and understand the following grammatical structures in reading and use them correctly in writing and speaking with at least 70% accuracy:

- Grammaring Academic Words and Phrases (count, non-count, and collective nouns and articles including s/v agreement, all English verb tenses with focus on those used in prevalently academic writing, causative and phrasal verbs, passive, gerunds and infinitives, modals)
- Grammaring Academic Clauses (subordinate noun, adjective and adverb clauses including appropriate punctuation; reduced adjective and adverb* clauses; both real and unreal conditionals)
- Grammar for Academic Papers (parallel structure; grammar for hedging including modals, emphasis, and cohesion; transition signal choices; verb tense consistency, other ways to modify nouns)

ATTENDANCE:
The truth is that you cannot learn what is required for this class if you are not in class. The IELP Attendance Policy is that attendance is required in all IELP classes. Attendance is required for academic reasons and to maintain your immigration status. If you don't attend class, you will not learn, you will miss important quizzes and tests, and you will not earn good grades. If you don't attend class, you will violate the terms of your student visa. If you don't attend at least 80% of each class, you can be dismissed from the IELP. All absences count as a missed class, no matter the reason. If you are sick or have a problem, you must contact your
academic advisor. If you have to miss class, find out what you missed by checking the course wiki or emailing me. You are responsible for finding out what you missed and come prepared to the next class meeting.

**ASSESSMENT and GRADING:**

Students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the course at 70% or better. SLO achievement is measured through Grammar tests which include writing responses, accurate usage of target grammar on both in and out of class writing responses, vocabulary quizzes, and the final exam. If you want an ‘A’ start today. Grades are earned, not given.

**40% Grammar Tests (including timed writing)**

There will be 3-5 grammar tests, and each will include a writing and vocabulary section. You will be assessed on your accuracy in grammar and ability to accurately use the structures and vocabulary we’ve been studying in writing. If you know you will miss a test, you must inform your teacher beforehand. No make up exams.

**10% Quizzes**

In addition, there will be frequent quick quizzes about the academic vocabulary and collocations we commonly use. Scores will be assigned based on the number of problems you solve correctly. See the ‘quiz schedule’ for more information about quiz content. If you miss a quiz, you cannot make it up. I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the term.

**10% Writing practices, and in-class activities**

Some work assigned in or out of class involves putting the focused grammar into practice. Most of these assignments will be short writings related to readings, functional vocabulary usage, or the Word Combination Card. Grades on these assignments will be based on your accuracy in applying new grammar structures and vocabulary, as well as your depth of critical thinking in answering the prompts. Handwritten 1st drafts due on Mondays and Typed 2nd drafts due on Fridays. If you are absent, email the work before or on the due date. No late work accepted.

**40% Final Exam**

The final exam will cover all the grammar studied during the term and include a writing section. You must PASS THE FINAL EXAM WITH 70% or more to pass the class. No early or late finals will be given. Our final will be Monday, March 16. Some of your other IELP finals may be on the same day. If you have a conflict with your PSU class finals, please let me know as soon as possible. Please plan your travel accordingly.

There will be homework every class. Some of it will be in the textbook or on handouts. You are expected to do it on your own. After you complete your exercises, check your answers and bring the exercises with any questions you have to class. We will take some time to go over student questions, but we will not go over every answer. If needed, the instructor will post the answers on the wiki. To encourage you to do your homework, some of the homework will be collected and feedback provided. A ‘homework grade’ will be assigned based on the completion of your work, but since its practice work for you to learn from, it will not be included in your overall grade for the course. This information is often required by visa sponsoring agencies. Homework that is more than 1 week overdue will not be collected.