Course Syllabus

Language and Culture

The University of Suwon

**Spring 2016**

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| **Professor: George E.K. Whitehead**  **Email: prof.gwhitehead@gmail.com**  **Office: Rm. 402 Humanities Building**  **Office Hours: Tues. 12:30-1:20/3:30-4:20**  **Fri. 12:30-2:20** | **E:\University of Suwon\Website QR.pngHours: 1 1/2**  **Days/Rooms: Mon. Rm. 401**  **Time: 6:30-8:00pm**  **Website: profgwhitehead.weebly.com** |

**Course Description**

The Language and Culture course critically analyzes the relationship between English language and culture by guiding learners through a serious of reflective discussions and tasks. Learners’ currents paradigms of English learning and teaching will be challenged and debated while bringing the most salient features of English education to the forefront of the discussion. Learners will take part in various group presentations and tasks that will contribute to a deeper understanding of cultures that they will most likely be interacting with, as well as developing intercultural communication skills for the global era. Through this course learners will develop a new understanding of English education while at the same time fostering the skills required to be a successful learner, teacher, and user of the language.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will have:

1. developed a deeper understanding of how the English language and culture are related

2. developed a critical eye for how language is taught and treated in EFL contexts

3. developed a greater awareness and appreciation for different cultures

4. developed better intercultural communication skills

5. reflected on the goals of learning English and what it means to be a good English speaker in the global era.

Course Expectations

1. come to class with open mind, ready to share and learn with others.

2. participate in class actively, enthusiastically and diligently.

3. contribute ideas, efforts, and experiences to class/groups.

4. show respect and contribute positively towards discussions, class atmosphere, peers and instructor.

5. make a strong effort to interact in English as much as possible.

**Required Text**

There is no required text for this course

# Grading

Grading is done on a curve. It means only the very top 40% of students can get an A/A+ grade, the next 30% only can get B/B+, and the lowest 30% will be awarded C grade or lower. You are competing against each other.

Grading breakdown: Mid-term exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

Attendance 20%

Participation/Homework/Classwork 20%

# Attendance Policy

If you **miss 4 classes** it is school policy that you receive a grade of **F**. Absences will only be excused if you can provide an authentic doctor’s note or another official certificate. Please **do not** bring these certificates on the last day of the semester, bring them the class period following the absence. If you have an absence excused, you may still lose points for class participation when you miss in-class work. Speak to your instructor to discuss makeup work for a missed class.

**NOTE:**

* **In the case of a missed class, 5 points will be deducted from your participation score.**
* **In the case of being late (more than 5 minutes) 1 point will be deducted from your participation score.**

# Plagiarism and Academic Integrity - IMPORTANT

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes all forms of plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, turning in work that has been written (partially or entirely) by someone else (including websites), or helping another student cheat.

**\* If a student is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty of plagiarism, the penalty may include failure of the assignment, or even failure of the course.**

**Course Topics**

1. What is culture?  
   
2. How are culture and language related?  
   
3. English as an International Language  
   
4. Intercultural communication  
   
5. Cultural understanding and World culture  
  
6. Implications for language teaching and learning  
  
7. Compressibility in pronunciation