Course Syllabus

Topic Discussion

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: 3**  **Days/Rooms: Weds./Fri. Rm. 500**  **Time: 3:30-4:20, 2:30-4:20**  **Website: profgwhitehead.weebly.com** |

**Course Description**

The Topic Discussion course engages learners in exercises of creative and critical thinking in order to develop functional communication skills. Students are coached to elaborate ideas, opinions, and feelings in response to various topics, issues and situations. Within the course framework, groups will express their views and opinions with a focus on clarity and confidence in their verbal interactions. Through the process, students will become more communicative, opinionated, and confident in the English language.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will have:   
  
1. articulated personal views with spontaneity, clarity and confidence 2. solved issues by comparing and contrasting opinions presented in the learning materials and by peers;  
3. evaluated insights for obtaining meaningful judgment; and,  
4. developed self-awareness and altruism.

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**

The required text for this course is, ***NEW GET UP TO SPEED 3 SITUATIONAL by Carrot Language Research and Development, Canada (2013)****, available at the University bookstore.*

# 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.**

**Units Covered**

1. That Commercial is Classic (p.16-19)

Media and Marketing

2. The Tabloids are Having a Field Day (p. 12-14)

Media and Marketing

3. Our Top Story Tonight (p.20-23)

News

4. Is This Really Happening to Me? (p.26-29)

Happiness

5. The Situation Could Get Dicey (p.52-55)

International Diplomacy

6. I’m Glad That’s Settled (p.56-59)

Conflict Styles

7. Take the Bull by the Horns (p.44-47)

Conflict Resolution

8. I’m Moving on and Not Looking Back (38-41)

Dealing with Personal and Professional Setbacks