

## English 604-PT0-VM (Basic English 2)

Département de langues  
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(Please DO NOT email me assignments!)

### Introduction:

This is the second of two mandatory General Education courses you must take as part of your college program. The focus of this course will be on the consolidation and practical application of the English you learned in your first course. The objective is to give you the opportunity to develop more comfort, ease and clarity of expression as you use English in real life situations, some of which may be related to your field of study.

### Objectives:

#### General Objective:

To be able to communicate in a simple but clear manner with increasing control over grammatical structure in daily communications in English and in situations related to your field of study.

#### Course Specific Objectives:

To attain the required level of competency in each skill, mastery and acceptable application of the following aspects is necessary:

#### **A. Grammatical notions:**

1. The future with *will* and *be going to* and the present continuous.
2. Pronouns
3. Beginning the present perfect
4. The modals *can*, *may*, *must*, *would*, *should*, *must* and *have to*
5. Comparatives and superlative forms of adjectives
6. Prepositions
7. Parts of speech
8. Review the simple present and the simple past.

#### **B. Writing notions:**

1. Letter and report writing
  - Capitalization
  - Punctuation
  - Format
  - Use of transitional expressions
2. Summarizing a text or an experience

#### **C. Vocabulary acquisition**

1. Use of vocabulary that is pertinent and appropriate to the subject covered orally and in writing.
2. Defining terms.

Final Objectives:

*On completion of this course, students will meet the following objectives:*

**1. Listening:**

Identify the main idea of a simple and explicit 3-4 minute message.

- 1.1 Recognize the main and secondary ideas of the message.

**2. Reading:**

Identify the main ideas of a text of approximately 600 words.

- 2.1 Recognize the main ideas and secondary ideas of a text.
- 2.2 Make inferences.
- 2.3 Deduce the meaning of vocabulary from context.

**3. Speaking:**

To express yourself orally in situations that can be related to your field of study.

- 3.1 Speak clearly and coherently for 3-4 minutes about a familiar

subject which can be related to your field of study, using appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures.

- 3.2 Ask questions that are grammatically correct. Improvise a dialogue.
- 3.3 Express ideas and opinions clearly.

**4. Writing:**

Write a clear and coherent text of 200 words.

- 4.1 Write 200 words clearly and coherently on a familiar subject that can be related to your field-of-study using verb tenses appropriately and accurately.
- 4.2 Apply the basic rules of grammar satisfactorily.
- 4.3 Use basic punctuation appropriately and accurately.
- 4.4 Incorporate appropriate vocabulary
- 4.5 Summarize effectively

**Teaching strategies**

Methods:

*In order to realise the above objectives, a number of different pedagogical activities will be used:*

**1. Listening:**

- Listening to a variety of authentic spoken texts as well as media productions containing everyday vocabulary, simple structures and standard pronunciation.
- Practice in note-taking
- Interactive group activities

**2. Reading:**

- Reading of articles and texts from different sources which contain everyday vocabulary and

complex as well as simple structures.

- Writing a one, two or three sentence summary of main ideas.
- Scanning and skimming
- Understanding of vocabulary, expressions and content.
- Use of reference tools (dictionary, thesaurus, grammar reference book, on-line indices).

### **3. Speaking:**

- Structured discussions and dialogues generated from both reading and listening activities.
- Role plays and interviews
- Interactive group activities.

### **4. Writing:**

- Writing workshops will focus on the following points:
- Grammar points
- Verb tenses (use and agreement)

- Sentence structure
- Reading and discussion of texts which serve as models for student work.
- Writing exercises which contain certain grammatical structures.
- Error analysis

### **5. Multi-skill Projects**

- Finding an article related to your field of study and summarizing it –defining terms or concepts.

#### Evaluation Guidelines:

See **Summative Evaluation** on page 4 for grade distribution.

#### **Strategies**

For each concept studied in class, there will be activities permitting students to assess their comprehension of the material taught. Some of these activities will be corrected and count towards the final grade and some will not.

Correction and feedback will allow students to ask for clarification and take necessary steps to address any problems that may present themselves. Students should always feel free to ask for extra help or clarifications, in class or by appointment.

#### Note:

*The weighting of this course is 2-1-3. This means that there are two hours of class time, one hour of lab work (or classroom work), as well as three hours of work to be done **outside** of class. These three hours of individual work are essential for the successful progress of the students. Time allotted to individual work per week is comprised of homework, as well as activities such as visits to the monitor, reading activities, laboratory work, etc.*

About 25% of the final grade for the course will have been attributed by the end of the mid-point of the course (week 8).

## Summative Evaluation

### Sessional assignments:

Vocabulary journal.....	5%
Speaking projects.....	5%
Field of study article project.....	5%
Internet site analysis...	5%
Grammar work.....	5%
R & W exercises.....	5%
Listening exercises.....	5%
Monitor/teacher Visits (3).....	5%

### Midterm exams:

Listening.....	5%
Reading.....	5%
Writing.....	5%
Speaking.....	5%

### Final exams:

Listening.....	10%
Reading.....	10%
Writing.....	10%
Speaking.....	10%

## Schedule\*

Class	Activity**
1	Introduction and warm-up exercises
2	TBA/Chapter 1
3	Speaking project 1/Chapter 1
4	TBA/Chapter 2
5	Speaking project 2/Chapter 3
6	TBA/Chapter 3
7	Speaking project 3/Internet site analysis/Chapter 4
Reading week : March 8-12	
8	Midterm Exams
9	TBA/Chapter 4/Chapter 5
10	Speaking project 4/Chapter 5
11	Field of study article project/Chapter 6
12	Speaking project 5/Chapter 7
13	TBA/Chapter 8
14	Listening & Speaking Exams
15	Final reading & Writing Exams/Speaking Exams

\*The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to this schedule. It is to be noted that many graded activities, worth just one or two points, will be performed on an *ad hoc* basis and are not written on the schedule.

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **1. Course attendance**

Although absences from English classes do not automatically result in a failure of the course, it is extremely important that students attend classes regularly. Because the learning of a second language is progressive in nature, absences will severely limit the student's ability to succeed.

If, however, students are absent from class, it is their responsibility to find out what happened in that class, and to be prepared for the following class, including the completion of any homework which may have been assigned.

### **2. Homework**

All students, even if they were absent, are responsible for doing homework on time. Although not all homework will be graded and count towards the final evaluation, it is strongly recommended that the student complete homework in order to improve his or her language acquisition.

Graded assignments which are handed in past the due date can be penalized at the discretion of the teacher. Assignments will be accepted no later than five working days after the due date. Students must keep all corrected work until the final date for the revision of marks has passed.

### **3. Exams**

Students who miss a final exam for a valid reason, **MUST** arrange to take a make-up exam within the week following the original exam date. The exam is arranged by contacting the teacher within a week of the date of the original exam and presenting a written note (such as a signed note from a doctor) justifying the absence.

### **4. Plagiarism and Fraud**

Plagiarism and fraud, either during an exam or on a homework assignment, will result in an automatic zero. Furthermore, the pre-determined percentage for that exam or assignment will be strictly respected.

## References, resources & other materials

### 1. Required materials:

- Boyd, Frances. NorthStar Listening & Speaking, Basic/Low-intermediate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Pearson-Longman, 2003.

Available at C.E.C (Michel Fortin) Bookstore  
Telephone: (514) 849-5719  
3714 Saint Denis (Just north of Pine Avenue).

- Student MUST have a good, modern dictionary. There is a selection of dictionaries available for consultation from Claude in Room 8.33.

### 2. Sources of Student Reference:

- Longman Interactive Dictionary CD

- Murray, R  
Basic Grammar in Use  
Cambridge: CUP, 1994 Library code: PE 1128 M875

- Sinclair, J  
Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary  
London: Collins, 1987 Available in Room 8.33

**3. Students** can also use the English monitor program for conversation and cultural enrichment and the language lab in Room 8.33. As well, students are required to make use of language-learning resources outside the classroom, including the Internet, newspapers, magazines, radio and television as well as the anglophone community around us.