

AL 2290 – Special Topics/Academic English

SYLLABUS

Course: AL 2290 – Special Topics/Academic English CRN: ##### (Section ###)

Class Days/Times: [DAYS/TIMES/DATES]

Class Location: [BUILDING/FLOOR/ROOM NUMBER]

Instructor: Dr. Don Gammill (rhymes with “camel”) Email: DGAMMILL1@gsu.edu

Office Location & Hours: [TO BE DETERMINED]

This syllabus and schedule reflect a general plan for the course. Deviations from this plan may become necessary. Students are responsible for taking note of any and all changes that may occur.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AL 2290: Academic English is a communicative, multi-skills course designed to improve your academic and general English skills. Instruction focuses on developing listening, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Through a variety of activities, we will:

- Read, reflect on, and analyze a book of approximately 250 pages, along with supplemental readings
- Make connections between the reading themes and self/society
- Participate in listening activities and discussions about the content
- Write answers to different types of questions (e.g., true/false, short answer)
- Use the rhetorical situation and modes of discourse, along with the writing process (pre-write, draft, share your writing with others, revise, edit) to compose short essays
- Practice academic writing skills in summarizing, paraphrasing, evaluating sources, and citing them
- Develop writing fluency and critical thinking through in-class writing and discussion
- Use general and academic vocabulary and conventions in writing and speaking
- Use online corpus tools to study the authentic use of language
- Prepare and deliver a 5- to 7-minute multimodal (oral + visual) presentation at the end of the term

ACTIVITIES

We will interact with each other through activities, such as engaging in class discussions about the book, listening to audio as a class, completing in-class group exercises, writing individual reflections and journal entries, answering identification/short answer/short essay questions, as well as working on academic and general vocabulary activities, reading activities (e.g., identify and summarize main ideas, make inferences and predictions about characters), and quizzes about the content and vocabulary of the book. We will also supplement our learning by visiting several local exhibits, such as the Georgia State Capitol Museum and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

ATTENDANCE & GRADING

Attendance is essential for success. The Office of International Initiatives will be notified of any absences. Please talk with the instructor if you are not able to attend class.

Your course grade will be computed as follows:

- Class activities, reading journal entries, and daily assignments.....80%
- Final multimodal presentation.....20%

Letter grades for this course have the following meanings:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D	60-69	F	below 60		