

EASL 451: English as an Academic Second Language

Instructor: Lucía Hermo del Teso
Office hours: MWF 11.00-11.50 and by appointment
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Class times: MWF 12.00-12.50
Classroom: LA 308

Course description

Welcome to EASL 451! This course is designed to help you practice English in an academic setting. In order to do that, we are going to spend the semester exploring five different topics, and reading some short stories. By having topics to study, we will be able to concentrate our efforts in learning techniques that will be useful for your academic career in the US. EASL 451 has a speaking focus, so you will get to participate in informal and structured debates, lead class discussions, and prepare formal presentations.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- 1) Outline and explain main and secondary ideas from lectures and readings, giving specific details.
- 2) Support opinions using lectures and text-based examples in debates and other class activities.
- 3) Formulate, express, and justify critical arguments extemporaneously.
- 4) Identify appropriate academic sources.
- 5) Create engaging research-based presentations finding appropriate academic sources and using technological support.
- 6) Use the MLA citation style.

Grading scale

A 93 – 100%	A- 90 – 92%	
B+ 87 – 89%	B 83 – 86%	B- 80 – 82%
C+ 77 – 79%	C 73 – 76%	C- 70 – 72%
D+ 67 – 69%	D 63 – 66%	D- 60 – 62%
F 0 – 59%		

Materials

Required

You will need to buy/rent:

- *21st Century Reading 4: Creative Thinking and Reading with TEDTalks*. (Blass & Williams). National Geographic/Cengage Learning (2016). ISBN-13: 978-1-305-26572-1.

Available through Moodle:

- Short stories.
- Other course materials.

You are responsible to check Moodle regularly and bring your own copies to class.

Recommended

- A good dictionary, such as the *Longman Dictionary of American English*.
- A portfolio to keep track of your progress.

Grade breakdown

1) Participation 10% (Outcomes 1, 2, 3)

Given the nature of the course, students must participate. There will be two participation grades over the semester: a midterm grade and a final grade. The instructor will provide students with a participation rubric at the beginning of the semester. NOTE: if you do not come to class or are late often, your participation grade will be negatively affected.

2) Homework & in class activities 10% (Outcomes 1, 2, 3)

(Homework 5% + in class activities 5%)

In addition to regular activities and discussion participation, there will be graded homework assignments and several graded in-class activities. Homework assignments will consist of small tasks that you must prepare at home, and you will receive full credit for completion. In class activities will consist of small tasks (reading, writing, listening, or speaking) that you must complete during class.

3) Short story activities 15% (Outcomes 1, 2)

After reading three short stories at home, you will complete comprehension activities in class. We will also analyze the structure and the messages in the stories. These activities will be collected and graded.

4) Debates 10% (Outcomes 2, 3, 4)

We will have debates in class about topics we choose from the textbook or the short stories. Topics will be chosen a week before the debate so that you have time to research and find sources to support different opinions. You will be graded based on a rubric.

5) Discussion facilitation 10% (Outcomes 1, 4)

(Handout 2.5% + discussion 7.5%)

You will lead a discussion on an article you find at the library's website, related to any topic in the textbook or any short story we read. You will also elaborate a handout to give to your classmates at the beginning of the discussion. You will be graded based on a rubric.

6) Practice presentations 10% (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5)

You will practice your presentation skills doing informal and formal presentations. These presentations will take place during the course of the semester, and will prepare you for your final presentation. You will be graded based on a rubric.

7) Final project 30% (Outcomes 1, 4, 5, 6)

(Topic and annotated bibliography 5% + outline and draft 5% + final essay 5% + abstract 5% + mock conference presentation 10%)

This project is designed to give students the opportunity to practice conference presentations, and get familiarized with the process. You will research a topic and provide your own original contribution. Students are encouraged to choose a topic from the textbook and their field of study if possible.

You will turn in an annotated bibliography, an outline and draft of your essay, and a final version of your essay (using MLA formatting). You will receive feedback to help you improve your final product. Since this project will culminate in a **mock** conference presentation, you will turn in an abstract before the presentations. Presentations must be 12-15 minutes long, with an extra 5 minutes for questions at the end. Your presentation will be graded based on a rubric.

8) Final exam 5% (Outcome 1)

Information about the final exam will be available to students a few weeks before finals week. Make sure to check Moodle.

Class policies, university policies

Course enrollment and withdrawal

Students who are registered for the course but do not attend the first week of class meetings will be required by the instructor to drop the course unless they can provide written excuse. This rule allows for early identification of class vacancies to permit other students to add classes. Students not allowed to remain must complete a drop form or drop the course on the Internet (CyberBear) to avoid receiving a failing grade. The last day to add a course without permission is September 7th. The last day to drop a course without permission from instructor and advisor is September 19th.

This course is offered for **Traditional credit** or as a **Credit/Non-Credit** option. Please speak to your academic advisor before doing any changes, and make sure your visa is not affected.

Attendance

Students must attend class. The first five unexcused absences will not impact your final grade. After this, each unexcused absence will result in a **letter grade drop**. Excused absences include University sponsored activities, military service, mandatory public service, illness, and emergencies. Please provide notice of your absence in advance when possible. Documentation supporting the absence must be provided. If no documentation is provided, the absence will be unexcused.

Students must be on time to class. Being 5 or more minutes late three times will result in a 5-point deduction in your participation grade.

Late work

Late work will NOT be accepted for full credit. Work submitted 24 hours or more after it is due will have a 10% deduction. Work submitted 3 days late will have a 25% deduction. Work submitted one week late will receive a grade of 0. Special arrangements will be made, on a case-by-case basis, with those for whom an illness or an accident has caused the late work.

Technology

The use of technology for non-class purposes is forbidden in the classroom. It will be treated as a sign of disrespect towards your classmates and the instructor. Using your cell phone or laptop repeatedly for non-class purposes will negatively impact your participation grade.

Student Code of Conduct

You must comply with the Student Code of Conduct. You are responsible to read the Code of Conduct by yourself. You can access the Student Code of Conduct here:

http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php .

Plagiarism is a serious offence in this country, so make sure you understand what it is before turning in assignments. Plagiarism includes not citing sources, copying from other students, or submitting work already submitted in another class.

Disability accommodation

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406 243 2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Additional information

Extra credit

Extra credit may be given to students who use the Writing Center for their essay. The Writing Center is a free resource and offers one-hour appointments for international students. If you turn in your essay with documentation proving you have gone to the Writing Center, your essay grade will be incremented by 5 points.

More extra credit opportunities may be announced during the course.

Office hours

Students are encouraged to ask for help whenever needed. You can contact me by email, come to office hours, or schedule an appointment whenever needed. I am here to help you succeed.

Tentative schedule (next page)

Schedule and assignment due dates may change at the instructor's discretion. The provided dates should be taken as a **guide**.

Week	Outcomes	Topic	Reading	Assignments
8/29 – 9/2		Presentation: Syllabus.		
9/5 – 9/9	Notetaking: main and secondary ideas.	Chapter 6 (Backing Up History)	Short Story: The Tale of the Three Brothers (Moodle)	
9/12 – 9/16	What is a discussion facilitation? What is an annotated bibliography? Finding sources.			
9/19 – 9/23	MLA citation style – useful verbs.			Short Story Assignment 1 (due 9/23)
9/26 – 9/30	What is a debate? Annotated bibliography review.	Chapter 7 (Food For All)		Topic + Annotated bibliography (due 9/30)
10/3 – 10/7	What is an outline? And a draft?			Debate
10/10 – 10/14	Expressing ideas and critical arguments	Chapter 8 (Future Jobs)		Outline and draft (due 10/14)
10/17 – 10/21	extemporaneously. Peer-editing.			Debate
10/24 – 10/28	Organizing an essay.	Short story	Short story: The Fall of the House of Usher	Short Story Assignment 2 (due 10/28)
10/31 – 11/4	MLA review.	Chapter 9 (How We Learn)		Discussion Facilitation
11/7 – 11/11	What is an abstract? English sounds.			Final essay (due 11/9)
11/14 – 11/18	Guessing vocabulary from context.	Short story	Short story: TBD	Short Story Assignment 3 (due 11/18)
11/21 – 11/25	What is a conference? Engaging your audience.	Chapter 10 (A Brighter Tomorrow)		Abstract (due 11/21)
11/28 – 12/2				
12/5 – 12/9	Writing a study guide.	Presentations Final exam review		Mock conference presentations.
12/12				
12/15: 8-10am				Final exam.

No class:

Labor Day - Monday 9/5

Election Day - Tuesday 11/8

Veterans Day - Friday 11/11

Thanksgiving Break – Wednesday 11/23 – Friday 11/25