



## English Language Unit – Health Sciences Center – Kuwait University

### English 181 – Course Syllabus

#### Course Description and Goals

English 181 is designed to help students at the Health Sciences Center at Kuwait University develop their skills in English composition, reading, and listening. The course introduces students to academic writing and focuses on teaching students to write well-developed, grammatically correct body paragraphs from procedure, definition, and comparison and contrast essays. To facilitate their progress in writing, students participate in an intensive review of the fundamentals of English grammar in the first part of the course. Students also engage in an independent study of basic medical terminology as well as general vocabulary throughout the semester that will help them in all aspects of the course. Another component of English 181 is reading and listening comprehension. To help students in this regard, the course features a series of essays and lectures on a variety of medical topics followed by comprehension questions. These essays also serve as models for student writing.

#### Course Objectives

##### At the end of English 181 students will be able to

- ◆ write grammatically correct simple and complex sentences with correct spelling and punctuation.
- ◆ write well-developed, grammatically correct body paragraphs when given an outline of procedure, definition, and comparison and contrast essays.
- ◆ recognize and correct their own grammatical errors when reviewing and editing their own writing as well as that of their peers.
- ◆ define and use in context a large number of basic medical terms.
- ◆ define and use in context a large number of general vocabulary words.
- ◆ comprehend, take notes on, and answer questions about a variety of reading comprehension exercises that discuss medical procedures, conditions, and diseases.
- ◆ comprehend, take notes on, and answer questions about a variety of listening comprehension exercises that discuss medical procedures, conditions, and diseases.

#### Required Textbooks

- ◆ Al-Fuhaid, J. M. (2010). *Language Skills for Students in the Health Sciences* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Kuwait: Kuwait University Press.
- ◆ Swan, M. (2005). *Practical English Usage* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ◆ Pohl, A. (2002). *Test Your Professional English: Medical*. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.
- ◆ Taber, C. W. *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* (20<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: F. A. Davis.
- ◆ English Dictionary, such as The Oxford American College Dictionary or Merriam Webster's College Dictionary.

#### Required Supplies

- ◆ Plain, white, lined, A4 paper for in-class writing
- ◆ Black or blue pens
- ◆ Number 2 pencils
- ◆ Folder for English 181 materials

## Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class by students signing an attendance register. Students who are *not present* at the start of class are allowed to attend, but are considered absent for that hour. Students who are not present at the start of the second hour of class are also considered absent for that hour. If students are absent without an excuse for 10% of the total number of course hours, the first warning is issued. If they are absent for 15% of the total number of course hours without an excuse, a final warning is issued. Students who are absent without an excuse for 20% of the total number of course hours automatically fail the course and receive a grade of "F/A." To check on attendance or obtain a medical excuse, students should go to the Office of Student Affairs at HSC. *It is not the responsibility of the English Language Unit to update students on the status of their attendance.* Medical excuses must be given to the course secretary in the English Language Unit within three days of returning to class.

## Grading

					A	95-100		C+	77-79		F	0-59
Grammar	5%	Midterm Exam	15%		A-	90-94		C	73-76			
Vocabulary	10%	Final Exam	40%		B+	87-89		C-	70-72			
Writing	30%				B	83-86		D+	65-69			
		Total	100%		B-	80-82		D	60-64			

## Grading Scheme

- ◆ **Grammar Test:** 5%; 10 multiple choice questions based on the grammar review at the beginning of the course; time allotted - 30 minutes
- ◆ **Vocabulary Tests:** 2 tests, 5% each; 40 multiple choice questions: 30 medical terms and 10 general vocabulary words for each test; time allotted per test - 60 minutes
- ◆ **Writing Assessments:**

Procedure Paragraph – 5%; time allotted – 1 hour and 30 minutes

1. Content – 2.5%
  - ◆ Topic sentence – 0.5%
  - ◆ Idea development and Coherence – 2.0% (0.2% off per error)
2. Grammar and Mechanics – 2.5%
  - ◆ Major errors (0.2% off per error)
  - ◆ Minor errors (0.1 % off per error)
  - ◆ Sub-minor errors (0.1 % off per 3 errors)

Definition Paragraph – 10%; time allotted – 1 hour and 30 minutes

1. Content – 5%
  - ◆ Topic sentence – 0.5%
  - ◆ Idea development and Coherence – 4.5% (0.2% off per error)
2. Grammar and Mechanics – 5%
  - ◆ Major errors (0.2% off per error)
  - ◆ Minor errors (0.1 % off per error)
  - ◆ Sub-minor errors (0.1 % off per 3 errors)

Comparison/Contrast Paragraph – 15%; time allotted – 2 hours

1. Content – 7.0%
  - ◆ Topic sentence – 1.0%
  - ◆ Idea development and Coherence – 6.0% (0.3% off per error)
2. Grammar and Mechanics – 8%
  - ◆ Major errors (0.3% off per error)
  - ◆ Minor errors (0.1 % off per error)

- ◆ Sub-minor errors (0.1 % off per 3 errors)
- ◆ Midterm Exam: 15%; 30 multiple choice questions – 12 based on listening, 18 based on reading; time allotted – 1 hour and 30 minutes
- ◆ Final Exam: 40%; 40 multiple choice questions – 12 based on listening, 18 based on reading, 10 based on writing applications; time allotted – 2 hours

## **Exam Policy**

Students must arrive 30 minutes before the start of any exam. Students who are ten or more minutes late to a vocabulary or grammar test, writing assessment, or mid-term or final examination will not be allowed to take the exam without permission from the Vice Dean, HSC. Any student who needs to be excused from any test, assessment, or examination should submit a request in person to the Vice President, HSC prior to the examination. Students are excused *only* for the following reasons:

- ◆ Admission of the student to the hospital as a patient
- ◆ Death of an immediate family member
- ◆ Other extenuating circumstances approved by the Vice Dean

**The specific dates and times for the vocabulary and grammar tests, writing assessments, and mid-term and final examinations are found in the tentative course calendar on the following page. These dates will be confirmed during the course of the semester.**

**For any test, assessment, or examination, STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW THESE RULES:**

1. Pencil cases, bags, wallets, books, dictionaries, papers, highlighters, mobile phones, pagers, and computers are placed at the front of the classrooms or lecture theaters for all tests, assessments, and examinations.
2. For the writing assessments, blue or black pens and lined A4 paper (provided by your teacher) are required.
3. For the vocabulary and grammar tests and the mid-term and final examinations, number 2 pencils are required. These tests and exams are multiple choice questions, and students mark their answers on Scantron sheets.
4. A certain amount of time is given for students to complete each test. When the teacher tells the students that the time is up, the students must stop writing and put their pens or pencils down.
5. **No extra time is given for students to copy their answers onto the Scantron sheets. All answers must be marked on the Scantron sheets in the given amount of time.**

After the results of the vocabulary tests and mid-term or final exams are posted, students have three days to review these tests and exams by making appointments with their teachers. When the three days are up, the grades are considered final and will *not* be changed. The same rule applies to the writing assessment grades, which are given to students in class.

## **Retaking the Final Exam**

A student's eligibility for retaking the final exam is determined by KU/HSC regulations. Please consult your student handbook for this information.

## **Penalty for Cheating**

According to article 14 in the bylaws of the credit hour system of Kuwait University, if a student is caught and found guilty of cheating or attempting to cheat, the student fails all courses for that semester. If he or she is caught a second time, the student is expelled from the university.

## **On-line Independent Study**

Supplemental course materials are available for students at the Health Sciences Center/English Language Unit's website. Instructors will give students the necessary details during the course of the semester.

## **Course Coordinator**

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