**Academic English 1**

**Autumn 2015**

**Mondays & Wednesdays, 14:35-16:05**

**Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts—Bratislava, Slovakia**

**Instructor:** James Griffith

**Contact Information:** [griffith@bisla.sk](mailto:griffith@bisla.sk)

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 11:00-13:00

**Course Description:**

In this course, we will work on vocabulary, grammar, and idiomatic English. The first half of the course will be focused on developing reading skills, while the second half will work on writing skills. We will develop these skills by examining editorials from the New York *Times*, selected material from textbooks, and at least one lengthier essay.

**Texts**

Primary Texts

Govier, Trudy, *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7ed. (Boston, MA: Wadsworth, 2014), ISBN: 978-133934646.

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein, *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Persuasive Writing*, 3 ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014), ISBN: 978-0393935841.

King, Jr., Martin Luther, *Why We Can’t Wait* (New York: Penguin Books, 1964), ISBN: 978-0451627547.

New York *Times*

Reference Material

*Chicago Manual of Style*, 16 ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0226104201. (Shorthand reference, “Chicago 16.”)

*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11 ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 2003), ISBN: 008-1413008074. (Shorthand reference: “Web 11.”)

*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2 ed., eds. John Simpson and Edmund Weiner (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), ISBN: 978-0198611172. (Shorthand reference, “OED.”)

Strunk, William, and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4 ed. (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 2000), ISBN: 978-020530902. (Shorthand reference, “Strunk and White.”)

Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6 ed., rev. John Grossman and Alice Bennett (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996), ISBN: 978-0226816273. (Shorthand reference: “Turabian.”)

**Course Requirements and Grade Distribution**

30%: *Final Examination* encompassing elements of material covered over the course of the semester.

25%: *Midterm Examination* encompassing elements of material covered over the course of the first half of the semester.

20%: Total percentage of two *Tests* given two or three weeks before each examination, each encompassing material covered only in the weeks preceding it or after the midterm. Thus, each test is worth 10% of the final grade.

10%: *Summaries* of certain written material.

10%: *Class Participation* is encouraged and expected. Indeed, it is crucial for the course to be beneficial.

5%: *Attendance* is mandatory. I will allow two unexcused absences for the term. Lateness of more than 15 minutes qualifies as an absence.

**Academic Integrity**

In this context, “academic integrity” primarily refers to plagiarism. Plagiarism is the taking of anyone’s previously written work and attempting to pass it off as new and/or your own. This includes not citing material that should be cited, even if you are not directly quoting a given source. It is a serious offense and BISLA’s Plagiarism and Cheating Policy will be followed strictly if it occurs. This policy can be found in the Moodle folder for this course. *NB:*This document also has helpful strategies for avoiding plagiarism.

**\*\*\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change.\*\*\*\*\***