

ESL 255/455 ♦ High Intermediate Grammar, Writing and Reading

Tuesday and Thursday ♦ 8:30am-11:20am ♦ ONLINE ♦ 6 units
De Anza College ♦ Winter 2025

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Welcome to ESL 255/455!



I am very happy to welcome all of you to ESL 255/455! The objective of this course is to help you improve your grammar, vocabulary, reading, and academic writing skills. By working **collaboratively**, you will learn a lot and improve your academic skills in English. Please be prepared to spend at least 10 hours a week outside of class reviewing your writing assignments, studying grammar, reading, revising vocabulary, and completing homework.

Student Learning Outcome for ESL 255/455

- Develop high intermediate English reading comprehension skills and vocabulary building skills in extended written materials.
- Demonstrate understanding and usage of high intermediate vocabulary in readings and writing.
- Write well-developed, single and connected narrative, descriptive, and explanatory paragraphs demonstrating high intermediate grammar and vocabulary in response to reading materials.
- Evaluate own writing for rhetorical structure, clarity, organization, and grammatical correctness by means of revision and editing.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite: ESL 244 or ESL 444 or a qualifying score on the English as a Second Language Placement Test.

Required Texts and Materials

All students must have the two textbooks by the second week of class. If purchasing a used textbook, you must erase the answers in the book. The instructor will check all books.

- **Focus on Grammar 4 (5th Edition)**
- **Reading Explorer 4 (Third Edition)**

Course Requirements

Homework

You will receive various homework assignments every class. Most of these assignments will consist of reading, completing exercises from the books, and finishing writing assignments. Sometimes we will correct

these exercises in class, but sometimes you will be required to turn in your answers or photos of your answers in Canvas. Every homework assignment will be graded and you will be expected to give answers in class when you are called on. Always be prepared to answer questions in class.

Late Assignment Policy

Late homework will NOT be accepted unless you notify the instructor in advance and provide a valid reason for your missed assignment.

Quizzes

We will have several announced and unannounced quizzes that will test grammar, vocabulary, and reading skills. The quizzes will be based on your homework assignments and materials covered in class. Make sure you review all materials regularly so you are prepared for these quizzes. No make-up quizzes will be given to absent students unless they have a doctor's note stating they were unable to attend class due to illness (not just regular appointments).

Exams

You will have a midterm and a final exam. Both exams will test your academic writing, vocabulary, grammar, and reading skills. No make-up exams given.

Writing Assignments



You will write two in-class and two multi-draft writing assignments in this class. All multi-drafted writing assignments will be corrected and graded twice. You will receive points based on the content and grammatical accuracy of your paragraph as well as the revisions made between drafts. A visit to the WRC will be required for each formal writing assignment before the final draft is due.

Grammar Workshop Reports

You will be required to attend and complete 6 hours of grammar workshops at the Listening & Speaking Center (LSC) for this class. You will write a report for each hour spent working on grammar workshops. The first three reports are due on the day of the midterm exam, and the last three reports are due on the last day of class. Speaking workshops **CANNOT** be used for this assignment.

Reading and Vocabulary Journals

Every week you will submit a journal in which you will write critical answers based on the reading done that week as well as complete a vocabulary practice based on the same reading.

Participation and Collaboration

How do we improve grammar, writing, and reading? By practicing! Therefore, it is very important that you come to each class prepared, on time, and ready to engage in class discussions. You will often work with your classmates in pairs and small groups to discuss and correct homework and writing assignments. Active participation is an important part of your grade, and it will be observed daily. You must come to class and actively participate in English by asking questions, volunteering answers, and collaborating with all classmates and instructor. **It is mandatory for you to turn on your video/web cam. during our classes to enhance your active participation.**

Attendance

Plan to attend every class and always arrive a few minutes before class begins. Students who miss class any time during the first two weeks will automatically be dropped. Students who miss more than two classes will get ZERO on their participation grade (-10%). You must come on time to every class. Three tardies will count as one absence. If you return from the break late, that counts as a tardie. IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OF CLASS FROM EITHER ARRIVING LATE, LEAVING IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS, OR LEAVING EARLY, THAT COUNTS AS AN ABSENCE. Remember, two absences are the MAX LIMIT you are allowed. If you need to leave early, please let your instructor know or you may be counted absent. **Letting the teacher know you will be absent is polite, but it DOES NOT excuse your absence.** It will count toward the 2 you are allowed for the quarter.

Grading

Attendance/Participation	10%	Quizzes	20%
Homework + reports + journals	15%	Midterm Exam	10%
Writing Assignments	25%	Final Exam	20%

97-100=A+, 96-93=A, 92-90=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 74-76=C, **73-0=no pass**

A grade of 60% of higher is required on the final exam or you won't pass the class.

Office Visits

Most successful students see their teachers outside their class to ask questions or get extra help on their assignments. I strongly encourage you to visit me during my office hours at least once during the quarter, even if it's just to say hello.

Academic Honesty

Except for pair and group assignments, all assignments must be done **BY YOURSELF**. Any form of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated in any case, and it will result in an **automatic F** for that assignment and possibly even for the course. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's homework, or any other material (including online materials).
- Having someone else do your assignment and submitting it as your own.
- Copying ANYTHING from the Internet – even just one sentence!

In this course, we are building your English skills in reading, writing and grammar. Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Bard and similar “generate” content and do not allow you to create your original content which results in not building your skills. **Therefore, generative AI use is strictly prohibited in this class.** Do not use generative AI for brainstorming, grammar checking, writing of outlines, drafts, paraphrases, or any other task. Assignments created by these AI tools will automatically receive a failing grade. Repeated use will likely result in course failure, administrative intervention, and other possible negative outcomes.

Important Dates

January 19th Last day for Drops w/ Refund
January 19th Last day for Drops w/out W
January 20th Last day to add most classes
February 28th Last day for Drops

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—No class
President's Holiday—No class

January 20
February 14-17

FINAL EXAM: March 27th from 7:00-9:00 am

*I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and helping you improve your English skills. If you have **ANY** questions or problems, please do not hesitate to email or see me during my office hours to get help. I will do my best to help you enjoy the class and succeed in becoming a better academic reader and writer.*