

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

Gen Ed: Remedial English Language Course

Proposed Syllabus for the UG 1st Semester students

Duration: July – November 2017

Mission Of The Course

English language skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening – are fundamental in constructing knowledge in all academic disciplines, succeeding in the world of work, and making sense of everyday life. The standards and benchmarks enlisted in this syllabus can help students adapt to the continually changing world of communication and develop a global outlook. This curriculum has been developed out of concerns about the specific issues surrounding instruction for those for whom English is neither the mother language nor the first language of instruction, and whose abilities to speak, read, listen and write in English are clearly varied.

Syllabus Components

READING

1. Simple comprehension texts of description, narration, information, explanation and persuasion based on higher order thinking skills.
2. Contextualised grammar focus.
3. Vocabulary – basic synonyms and antonyms.
4. Vocabulary for specific purposes – trades and professions, subject-specific terminology, etc.

WRITING

1. De-contextualised grammar focus:
2. Parts of speech
3. Transformation of parts of speech
4. Nouns – gender and number
5. Countable and uncountable nouns
6. Verbs and tenses
7. Use of auxiliaries
8. Agreement of verb with subject
9. Use of articles
10. Use of adjectives and adverbs
11. Use of selected prepositions
12. Affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences
13. Question tags
14. Phrasal verbs
15. Direct and indirect narration.
16. Use of punctuation in writing

DIRECTED WRITING TASKS

1. Formal letters
2. Grammar based worksheets

SPEAKING

Extempore

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

The following methods will be used:

1. Conventional questions and answers
2. Fill-in-the-blanks exercises
3. Multiple-choice questions
4. Making sentences
5. Board work
6. Interactive discussions
7. Audio-visual aids

ASSESSMENT

1. Formative – On-going assessment based on class assignments, work-sheets and tests as well as Mid Semester examination.
2. Summative – Examination at the end of the course.

CONCLUSION

It is expected that completion of the course will enable students to be reasonably at par with those in the mainstream. However, optimum proficiency will depend on factors such as a) existing familiarity with and knowledge of the language, b) regular attendance, c) regular application of concepts, d) ability of comprehension, e) willingness to use the language as often as possible

Through this course the students will be able to acquire the following set of literacy standards/ skills and implement them as working strategies:

1. Will engage in and gain basic proficiency in reading and comprehension
2. Will speak to a) inform b) describe c) explain d) persuade. The style and vocabulary will be at the beginners' level.
3. Make use of the grammar, syntax and tone of speech at the preliminary level.
4. Will read a variety of materials to facilitate comprehension.
5. Will understand the elements of grammar and its functions in a text.
6. Employ reading strategies such as scanning, selecting and summarising at the preliminary level.
7. Learn types of sentences – statement, question, exclamation, affirmative and negative.
8. Will gain and demonstrate basic competence in speaking, reading and writing.

