



## Discussion Skills in English (Level 5) – Current Issues Spring 2017 Course Syllabus

<b>Instructor</b>	Ryan Boyd	<b>Classroom</b>	
<b>Office</b>		<b>Section No.</b>	
<b>Office Hours</b>		<b>Class Time</b>	
<b>Office Phone</b>		<b>Email</b>	
<b>Class Website</b>	<a href="http://moodle.seoultech.ac.kr/">http://moodle.seoultech.ac.kr/</a>		

### Description

“Current Issues” is a course where students use topics from the news as a platform for discussion in English. We will take look from multiple perspectives at three topics which are currently prevalent in the world news. News articles and videos will serve as a basis for classroom discussions. Studying current issues will be a tool for developing the language and skills necessary to (a) be an active member in group discussions, (b) critically think about and discuss issues in English, (c) form opinions on issues and support them with information from outside sources.

**Level :** Seoul Tech Oral Language Proficiency Level 5

OPIc	IM (Intermediate Mid)
TOEIC Speaking	Level 6 (130~150)
TOEIC L&C	600~725

### Goals

- Form clear and organized answers to questions
- Develop critical discussion questions
- Summarize information to support discussions
- Learn and understand multiple perspectives on three current issues
- Practice using topic-specific vocabulary in discussions

### Textbook/Materials

- Course articles and videos can be found on the course website
- Paper and pencil

### Assessment Plan

#### Attendance and Participation (10 %)

Attendance and participation is important to this course and will be assessed in each class. Simply being present but unprepared and not participating will not be sufficient to receive a full score each class. Each student is expected to fully participate in all pair/small group/class discussions and activities in English. Students must also bring their materials (a folder, paper, and a pen or pencil) and completed homework assignments to each class.



### Assignments (45%)

Students' assignments will be meant to take approximately an hour to 2 hours a week to complete. Assignments may require students to complete paper-based homework, online quizzes submitted through the course website, in class activities, or small group projects (such as preparing information to share in class). All assignments are due at the beginning of the next class. Digital assignments are due within 7 days from their assigned date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

### Assessments (45%)

There will be three tests for this course. Each discussion topic will have its own test. The first test will be a group discussion with a given discussion question. The second exam will be graded as a group and require groups to create a mini presentation and facilitate a classroom discussion. On the final exam, students will discuss the assigned topic but they will need to develop their own critical questions for stimulating discussion.

### Grade Scale

Students' letter grades are determined using the standard SeoulTech grading curve. The grading system compares each student's score with the scores of all other (Course Title) students taught by the same teacher. For example, if a teacher has a total of five (Course Title) classes, all of the students in those five classes are put together into one combined group for grading. The students are then ranked and assigned grades based on university standards. Grades are assigned based on an average of a **maximum average of a 3.3 grade point average** for the combined classes. A+= 4.5, A0= 4.0, B+= 3.5, B0= 3.0, C+= 2.5, C0= 2.0, D+= 1.5, D0= 1.0, F= 0.0. Assignment of letter grades of A+ through B0 will be based on student ranking using the 3.3 grading curve. Please take note that a grade of C+, C0, D+, D0, or F is determined by their overall score in the course by percentages listed below.

Grade	A+~B0	C+	C0	D+	D0	F
All sections combined	Student Ranking	75~79.99%	70~74.99%	65~69.99%	60~64.99%	Below 60%

### Class Schedule

Week	Topic	Topic, Assignment, Language Outcomes, etc.
1	Selfies	<b>Placement and Class Orientation</b>
2		<b>Topic 1 Vocabulary</b>
3		<b>Understanding Questions and Organizing Responses</b>
4		<b>Module 1 Review and Exam Preparation</b>
5		<b>Module 1 Exam</b>
6	Students will vote to determine the topic of Module 2	<b>Module 2 Vocabulary</b>
7		<b>Creating Questions</b>
8		<b>Pointed Questions and Survey Development</b>
9		<b>Exam 2 Workshop</b>
10		<b>Module 2 Exam</b>
11	Plastic Surgery	<b>Module 3 Vocabulary</b>
12		<b>Identifying Important Information</b>
13		<b>Summarizing Information</b>
14		<b>Module 3 Review and Exam Preparation</b>
15		<b>Module 3 Exam</b>



## Email communication protocol

Students are encouraged to contact Professor Boyd with any concerns or questions that they have about class. Students either may contact him through MOODLE or send him an email. Email must use the following protocol:

Students **must** email Professor Boyd at his work email.

The email subject line (이메일제목) **must** include:

Your full name, Class Name, Section# and Student #, for example:

“Choi Yoonju, Discussion Level 5, Section31005, 01234567”

## Attendance

Unexcused absences affect your attendance grade. In order to have your absence excused, you must submit paperwork to the ILER office in room 115 within one week of your absence. Valid reasons for absences can be found on the ILER website. Students who miss more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the semester will automatically receive an F for the course in accordance with the SeoulTech attendance policy.

## Plagiarism

All work done in this class must be original work completed by the student. If, for any reason, the instructor believes that you have plagiarized, he or she may fail you for the assignment or for the entire class. This policy not only applies to homework, but also to in-class assignments and formal testing as well.

\*This syllabus is subject to change and/or adjustment at the professor's discretion.