

College of Medicine / University of Tikrit

MSc (Master of Science) Course / 1st & 2nd Terms

Academic Year: 2025-2026

Course Name: English Language

Time Division: 1hr Theoretical

Course No.: 1&2

Course Plan

Course Description

This course aims at postgraduate students who need English in their academic studies. This level consists of 10 units covering a variety of topics relevant to students in higher education. The units focus on a wide range of academic reading, writing, research, and/or vocabulary skills. This course develops further knowledge of the grammar and of essential vocabulary in order to lead the students to an advanced level of proficiency. Emphasis is placed on developing reading and writing skills through an integrated approach. It focuses on grammar and fundamental writing skills. It is a writing course in which students read different essays and discuss ways to formulate their writing. Peer revision, collaboration with class members, in-class writing activities, reading, extensive revision of essays, class discussion, and error pattern identification comprise the core requirements.

Course Intended Outcomes:

The aims of the course are to help postgraduate students become more efficient and effective in their study.

As a result of having taken the course, students should be able to:

- develop strategies for improving reading speed, and for improving their ability to comprehend complex academic texts.
- develop strategies to produce more coherent writing, and to make clear, appropriate, and relevant notes from academic texts.
- adopt various approaches for dealing with new or unknown vocabulary by practising effective use of google, ChatGPT and mobile dictionaries, and through making effective vocabulary records.
- explore and evaluate research techniques and resources, and create sources of information.
- become self-disciplined and independent learners.

Although the course primary focuses on the skills of reading, writing and research, students are given opportunities to practice their listening and speaking skills through brainstorming sessions, discussing issues, and sharing thoughts.

Course Outline:

Week	Description	Dates
1	Introduction:	
2	Unit 1: International student Reading: Going abroad to study Following instructions: filling in forms	
3	Reading methods: skim; scan; intensive reading; extensive reading Writing: Checking your writing error correction Writing an informal email Vocabulary development: Reading a paragraph and re-write it using the student's own words	
4	Unit 2: Where in the world Reading: Three countries Skimming and scanning: reading for the general idea, and for particular information	
5	Writing: My country Brainstorming ideas Linking ideas	
6	Unit 3: Newspaper articles: Reading: an unexpected journey	
7	Writing: mistaken identity Vocabulary development: word building	
8	Unit 4: Modern technology Reading: Innovations: Identifying the main message: using topic sentence to identify paragraph content	
9	Writing: Technology - good or bad? Varying vocabulary	
10	Listening Skills: Listening Comprehension Exercises	
11	Exam	
12	Unit 5: Conferences and visits	
13	Writing academic emails and letters Word building	
14	Review	

Course Outline:

Week	Description	Dates
1	Review final exam: overall performance, individual results, student & lecturer feedback • Identify: strengths, areas for improvement • Discuss: exciting plans, essential info for smooth transition & successful next term	
2	Unit 6: Science and our world: making notes, interpreting meaning, paraphrasing and summarizing, facts and speculations, noun/verb +prepositions, using numbers	
3	Listening Skills: Listening Comprehension Exercises	
4	Unit 7: People: past & present: using original sources, developing an internet search plan, adding extra information, organizing ideas and writing from research	
5	Listening Skills: Listening Comprehension Exercises	
6	Quiz	
7	Unit 8: The world of IT: rephrasing and explaining, avoiding repetition, linking ideas, coherent writing, writing from notes, abbreviations, acknowledgements	
8	Listening Skills: Listening Comprehension Exercises	
9	Unit 9: Inventions, discoveries, and processes: intensive reading, linking ideas, the passive voice, clarifying a sequence	
10	Unit 9: Writing a description of a process and using indexes	
11	Mid Exam	
12	Unit 10: Travel and Tourism: interpreting data, illustrating data	
13	Unit 10: Describing a graph or chart, writing about data and avoiding repetition	
14	Review	

Textbooks:

1. *Headway Academic Skills: Reading, Writing, and Study Skills, Level 2* (2016)
by Sarah Philpot and Lesley Curnick, Oxford University Press,
ISBN13: 978-0-19-474157-6

Suggested references:

1. *The Academic Skills Handbook* (2018)
by Diana Hopkins and Tome Reis, SAGE
ISBN: 978-1-439-9714-1

2. *Critical Thinking: Your Guide to Effective Argument, Successful Analysis and Independent Study* (2017)
by Tom Chatfield.

Assessment Components:

- Participation and Engagement (5 Marks).
- Midterm Examination (25 Marks)
- Final Examination (70 Marks)

Examination Format: Both the midterm and final examinations will adhere to a structured format designed to assess your comprehension of the course material. The examinations will encompass the following components:

1. **Unseen Passage Analysis (Vocabulary Assessment & Comprehensive Question Types):**

- o A significant portion of each examination will involve the analysis of an unseen passage. This passage will contain elements that require you to demonstrate your command of vocabulary, particularly in identifying synonyms and antonyms.
- o Questions related to vocabulary may inquire about similarities (synonyms) or differences (antonyms) between words or phrases within the passage.
- o In addition to the vocabulary assessment within the unseen passage, the examination will feature diverse question types to gauge your comprehensive grasp of the passage. These may comprise **Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs), Short Answer Questions, and Essay Questions**, each designed to assess different facets of your understanding, critical analysis, and application of the passage's content.

2. **Textbook Exercises:**

- o In addition to the passage analysis and vocabulary assessment, a portion of the examination questions will be drawn directly from exercises within the course textbook.
- o These questions will gauge your ability to apply and integrate the knowledge gained from the textbook's exercises and readings into your responses.

It is essential to review the course materials, including the textbook exercises and any recommended readings, to ensure comprehensive preparation for both the midterm and final examinations. Additionally, familiarizing yourself with synonyms and antonyms will enhance your proficiency in addressing vocabulary-related questions in the unseen passages.

Instructor information:

Lecture Room no. 1

Time: 11 am (on Tuesdays)

Instructor's Name: *Eman Saud Dhannoon*