

# **LAN1202 Foreign Language, Intro.**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Foreign Language, Intro. is an introductory course. Any student may take this course.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course in foreign languages. Students will gain a knowledge of how one acquires a second language. There are a variety of methods one could utilize to learn a second language. This course will outline what some of them are. The course will also expound on the benefits of learning a second language. Language structure will be discussed. Focus at the end of the course will shift to teaching language to others.

This course will show you many different ways to acquire a second language. It will help you to develop a sense of the value of understanding the thinking and culture of the people who speak the targeted language. You will also do a brief review of sentence structure and grammar, which will aid your grasping the new language. You will scrutinize the reasons for acquiring a second language and how it can enrich your life.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The course will inspire the student to enhance his/her life by developing the desire and confidence to acquire a second language. Many different methods will be probed thereby affording the student the opportunity to unearth techniques that will work best for him/her. By the end of the course all students should:

- Explain various language teaching methodologies
- Understand which methodology would work best for him/her
- Think critically about the current teaching methods and techniques
- Prepare some activities to aid students in acquiring a second language
- Reflect on teaching techniques observed
- Understand how languages are constructed by a broader understanding of grammar
- Gain knowledge about language learning and teaching

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy. Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

## **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: [tutordept@usilacs.org](mailto:tutordept@usilacs.org).

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT**

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: [hr@usilacs.org](mailto:hr@usilacs.org).

## **DRESS CODE**

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual). NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

## **NETIQUETTE**

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.
- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

### **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
1-305-330-2202  
[registrarsoffice@usilacs.org](mailto:registrarsoffice@usilacs.org)

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING**

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

(2011) Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching. Larson-Freeman, D. & Anderson, M. Oxford: Oxford University Press

(2013) Reading with My Eyes Open: Embracing the Critical and the Personal in Language Pedagogy. Quist, Gerdi. University College London.

(2012) 22 Tips for Learning a Foreign Language. Manson, Mark (PDF)  
Four Reasons to Learn a New Language.

What You Didn't Know About Language Barriers.

One Simple Method to Learn Any Language. Young, Scott & Jaiswal, Vat,  
TEDxEastsidePrep

### **MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a “D” in order to pass the class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

*Critical review of teaching method-*

Research, observe or examine a current method of acquiring a second language. Write a one-page report of what you liked or disliked about the program, the ease of using it, whether or not you felt it was beneficial for a wide range of users, and how you might improve upon it.

*Classroom learning activity-*

Design an activity for a small group of students (4-5) that will focus on developing language in the foreign language. Be creative!

*Observation of a teacher-*

This can either be done in a classroom setting (recommended) or view a recording of a live, intact foreign language class. You should submit a thoughtful, thorough report of your observations. Include in your report a description of the class and the environment, the teachers’ practices and how he/she planned, and how the students were encouraged to participate.

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

<b>Week 1</b>	Overview of course and coursework Old and New Influences on Language Teaching
<b>Week 2</b>	Grammar-Translation Method Looking at language learning strategies
<b>Week 3</b>	Direct strategies for dealing with language Applying direct strategies to the four language skills
<b>Week 4</b>	Indirect strategies for general management of learning <i>Critical review of teaching method due</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
<b>Week 6</b>	Apply indirect strategies to the four language skills
<b>Week 7</b>	Language learning strategy Assessment and training
<b>Week 8</b>	Language learning styles and strategies: An overview <i>Classroom learning activity due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	Balance your learning through listening and reading Balance your learning through speaking and writing
<b>Week 11</b>	Balance your learning-do deliberate study of language features Balance your learning-get fluent at using what you know
<b>Week 12</b>	Apply conditions that help learning Keep motivated and work hard <i>Observation of a teacher due</i>
<b>Week 13</b>	<i>Video review and Final exam</i>