



Columbia West College

Course Syllabus

Communication Skills – Intermediate

This Course Syllabus outlines course-specific information. For program-wide information, please refer to the Program Syllabus, which can be accessed at www.columbiawestcollege.edu → Students → Syllabi and Curriculum Guides.

Prerequisite: Placement by assessment or successful completion of Beginning American Communication.

Course Objectives: The primary aim of this course is for students to gain confidence in their ability to carry on a conversation with native English-speakers on a variety of subjects and to participate in discussions on familiar subjects. Course objectives are based on critical thinking, listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Interact with English speakers in specific situations and to accomplish specific tasks;
2. Identify and use expressions to accomplish goals of everyday conversation, including:
 - a. Expressing empathy, concern and relief;
 - b. Apologizing, softening negative answers, and introducing disappointing information;
 - c. Giving emphatic responses;
 - d. Making small talk;
 - e. Confirming information; and
 - f. Beginning a conversation with a stranger;
3. Discuss a range of topics, including health, movies, the arts, the weather, holidays, life plans, values, personality, food, and cyberspace;
4. Identify and use intermediate grammatical structures;
5. Follow a natural group discussion;
6. Infer meaning of unknown words from context;
7. Debate the pros and cons of issues, explain a change of intentions or plans, talk about politics, discuss problems and solutions, troubleshoot a problem, and leave and take a message.

Program Length: Intermediate American Communication is made up of Essential English levels 3 and 4. Each section is twenty-four (24) weeks long. Therefore, you may stay in one section for 24 weeks and not repeat class material. After your first 12 weeks, your completion certificate will show your first level. However, the length of your own program depends on your study habits.

Required Textbooks

Winter & Summer Term:

Ascher, Allen, and Joan Saslow. *Top Notch: English for Today's World (Level 2)*. 3rd ed., Pearson Education, Inc., 2015, White Planes, NY.

Spring & Fall Term:

Ascher, Allen, and Joan Saslow. *Top Notch: English for Today's World (Level 3)*. 3rd ed., Pearson Education, Inc., 2015, White Planes, NY.



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Curriculum Guide

Communication Skills – Intermediate – Winter/Summer

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 1 Getting Acquainted	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 2 Going to the Movies	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 3 Staying in Hotels	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 4 Cars and Driving
B	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 5 Personal Care and Appearance	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 6 Eating Well	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 7 About Personality	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Units 5,6,7 Review / Production Assessment
C	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 8 The Arts	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 9 Living in Cyberspace	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 10 Ethics and Values	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Units 8,9,10 Review / Production Assessment

Textbook: Ascher, Allen, and Joan Saslow. *Top Notch: English for Today's World (Level 2)*. 3rd ed., Pearson Education, Inc., 2015, White Planes, NY.

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Communication Skills – Intermediate – Spring/Fall

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 1 Make Small Talk	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 2 Health Matters	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 3 Getting Things Done	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 4 Reading For Pleasure
B	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 5 Natural Disasters	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 6 Life Plans	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 7 Holidays and Traditions	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Units 5,6,7 Review / Production Assessment
C	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 3 Unit 8 Inventions and Discoveries	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 9 Controversial Issues	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Unit 10 Beautiful World	TOP NOTCH – LEVEL 2 Units 8,9,10 Review / Production Assessment

Textbook: Ascher, Allen, and Joan Saslow. *Top Notch: English for Today's World (Level 3)*. 3rd ed., Pearson Education, Inc., 2015, White Planes, NY.