



Columbia West College

Course Syllabus

University Preparation – Introductory

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 Essential English Level 4.

Course Objectives: The Introductory Level of the program prepares you to transition into mainstream college and university courses by presenting and developing your understanding of the expectations of the American university classroom and by expanding your skills in academic vocabulary building, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and notetaking. Program objectives are based on critical thinking, reading, writing, listening, speaking, notetaking, and vocabulary development.

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

1. Identify strategies and skills for meaningful and effective reading, vocabulary building, listening, notetaking, and critical thinking;
2. Use various strategies to infer the meaning of vocabulary from context;
3. Identify words across word families;
4. Recognize common collocations and connect words accordingly;
5. Identify various aspects of American culture and American university culture;
6. Recognize common themes and rhetorical patterns used in college and university classrooms;
7. Apply knowledge of American culture to behavior in the classroom.
8. Recognize the types of lectures common in American classrooms;
9. Identify and apply tactics for taking effective lecture and class notes;
10. Recognize the types of essays common in American classrooms;
11. Identify and apply the steps of the writing process;
12. Create well-developed, clearly organized academic essays and terms papers;
13. Write a draft of a college admissions essay;
14. Integrate reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in academic contexts; and
15. Expand productive vocabulary to incorporate words from the Academic Word List.

Program Length: University Preparation - Introductory Level is divided into 3 modules, and each module is 4 weeks in length. However, the length of your individual educational program depends on your commitment to the school

Required Textbooks

Dunkel, Patricia A. & Phyllis L. Lim. *Listening & Notetaking Skills 1*. 4th Ed. Boston: Heinle-Cengage ELT, 2013. Print.

Huntley, Helen. *Essential Academic Vocabulary*. Boston: Heinle, Cengage Learning, 2006. Print.

Meyers, Alan. *Longman Academic Writing Series 5: Essays to Research Papers*. 1st Ed. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2013. Print.

Schmitt, Diane, Norbert Schmitt, and David Mann. *Focus on Vocabulary 1: Bridging Vocabulary*. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2011. Print.

Smith, Lorraine C. *Longman Academic Reading Series 5: Reading Skills for College*. 1st Ed. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2013. Print.

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Curriculum Guide

University Preparation – Academic Vocabulary & University Culture – Introductory Level

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	Unit 1 - Happiness Chapters 1 & 2	Unit 1 - Happiness Chapters 3 & 4	Unit 2 - Mind Chapters 5 & 6	Unit 2 - Mind Chapters 7 & 8
B	Unit 3 - Design Chapters 9 & 10	Unit 3 - Design Chapters 11 & 12	Unit 4 – Face It Chapters 13 & 14	Unit 4 – Face It Chapters 15 & 16
C	Unit 5 - Technology Chapters 17 & 18	Unit 5 - Technology Chapters 19 & 20	Unit 6 – Celebrity & Heroes Chapters 21, 22 & 23	Unit 7 – Environment Chapters 25, 26 & 27

Textbook: Schmitt, Diane, Norbert Schmitt, and David Mann. *Focus on Vocabulary 1: Bridging Vocabulary*. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2011. Print.

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Curriculum Guide

University Preparation – Listening & Notetaking – Introductory Level

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	Unit 1 Chronology: Talking about When Things Happen Chapters 1 & 2	Unit 1 Chronology: Talking about When Things Happen Chapter 3 & Unit 1 Video	Unit 2 Process: Describing How Things Work Chapters 4 & 5	Unit 2 Process: Describing How Things Work Chapter 6 & Unit 2 Video
B	Unit 3 Classification: Defining and Putting Things in Categories Chapters 7 & 8	Unit 3 Classification: Defining and Putting Things in Categories Chapter 9 & Unit 3 Video	Unit 4 Comparison and Contrast: Describing Similarities and Differences Chapters 10 & 11	Unit 4 Comparison and Contrast: Describing Similarities and Differences Chapter 12 & Unit 4 Video
C	Unit 5 Cause and Effect: Describing the Reason Things Happen Chapter 13	Unit 5 Cause and Effect: Describing the Reason Things Happen Chapter 14	Unit 5 Cause and Effect: Describing the Reason Things Happen Chapter 15	Unit 5 Cause and Effect: Describing the Reason Things Happen Unit 5 Video & Review with Various Recorded Lectures

Main Text: Dunkel, Patricia A. & Phyllis L. Lim. *Listening & Notetaking Skills 1*. 4th Ed. Boston: Heinle-Cengage ELT, 2013. Print.
 Supplemental Resources: Various recorded lectures.



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University Preparation – Academic Writing – Introductory Level

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	Chapter 1 Expository Essays	Chapter 2 Classification Essays	Chapter 3 Process Essays	Chapter 3 Process Essays
B	Chapter 4 Cause / Effect Essays	Chapter 5 Extended Definition Essays	Chapter 6 Problem / Solution Essays	Chapter 6 Problem / Solution Essays
C	Chapter 7 Summary / Response Essays	Chapter 8 Argumentative Essays	Chapter 9 Research Papers	Chapter 9 Research Papers

Main Text: Meyers, Alan. *Longman Academic Writing Series 5: Essays to Research Papers*. 1st Ed. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2013. Print.

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University Preparation – Academic Reading – Introductory Level

MODULE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
A	Chapter 1 Sociology: How We Become Who We Are	Chapter 2 Art History: Origins of Modern Art	Chapter 3 Anthropology: The Study of Human Cultures	Chapter 3 Anthropology: The Study of Human Cultures
B	Chapter 4 Science: Human Achievements over Time	Chapter 5 Political Science: Managing Hard Times	Chapter 6 Health Sciences: Medical Mysteries Solved	Chapter 7 Literature: Storytelling through Poetry
C	Chapter 8 History: Encountering New Worlds	Chapter 9 Business: Ethical Issues	Chapter 10 Migration Studies: In Search of a New Life	Chapter 10 Migration Studies: In Search of a New Life

Main Text: Smith, Lorraine C. *Longman Academic Reading Series 5: Reading Skills for College*. 1st Ed. White Plains: Pearson Education, 2013. Print.

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