

Advanced English: Culture & Society (032.024)

Winter 2019

Instructor: Hyunah Ahn	E-mail: snumsil@gmail.com
Meetings: MWF 3:00 - 5:50PM	Office: Rm. 208 @ Bldg. 3
Classroom: Rm. 104 @ Bldg. 2	Hours: By appointment

Last Updated: December 23, 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This content-based English course aims to help students at advanced English proficiency fine-tune their academic English skills in all four areas (Listening, Reading, Speaking, & Writing). We will try to achieve this aim by reading, discussing, giving presentations on, and writing papers on a book titled *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari. Students will be asked to read a select chapter of the book before class meets, and class meetings will be dedicated to presentations, discussions, debates, and writing workshops.

Harari's discussion on the history of humanity not only covers facts of the past but also delves into changing views and outlooks on the past, present, and the future. He touches on the topics of anthropology, economics, science, technology, religion and ideologies, politics, and definitions of happiness. Reading the book will provide us with new insights in understanding different cultures of the world, interpreting current events around the globe, and preparing for the future society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The general aim of the course is to train students to be able to engage in academic discussions in spoken and written English. By the end of the semester, students will be able to...

In terms of contents,

- (1) Define important concepts in world history (as presented in *Sapiens*)
- (2) Synthesize and evaluate the author's opinion on how different cultures across societies are shaped and what influences them
- (3) Formulate their own views on discussed topics

In terms of academic English skills,

- (4) Summarize a chapter's contents via an oral presentation and lead follow-up discussions on relevant questions and issues
- (5) Identify main arguments of the author and of peers on a topic and critique them in the formats of discussions, debates, and essays
- (6) Report their own views formulated on various issues covered in class in formal English in the format of an academic paper

MATERIALS

Required: Harari, Yuval N. (2015). *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind*. NY: Vintage.

*** Please buy a paperback version of the book (available in the campus bookstore). Also, libraries on campus have a few hard copies. E-books are not recommended: you will have to bring a hard copy of your book to take open-book quizzes.

All handouts, worksheets, presentation slides, and other materials will be provided via eTL.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance	6%	Chapter Presentation	15%	Midterm	24%
Participation	6%	Reaction Paper	25%	Final Exam	24%

Attendance

The College English Program has a very strict attendance policy. Students are allowed to have three days' absence in total during the winter term including both excused and unexcused absences. You will lose 2 percentage points per day of absence until you lose all 6 percentage points assigned for attendance. A fourth day of absence will result in an automatic F. Doctors' notes for common colds are not accepted. Three late arrivals count as one absence.

Participation

You should also actively participate in class activities. Any disruptive behavior that interferes with lectures and in-class activities will be penalized.

Exams

Quizzes will be on contents that are covered in the required textbook. Students will be allowed to bring and use the textbook, handouts, notes, and any materials that will help them answer the questions on the quiz. No electrical devices can be used during quiz sessions.

Chapter Presentation

Depending on the number of students enrolled, the chapter presentation can be an individual activity or a team activity. Each presentation should summarize the contents of a given chapter, followed by small group discussions and whole class discussions on questions/issues prepared by the presenter(s).

Reaction Paper

The paper should be a form of book review. Students are encouraged to start reading the book as early as possible and write a reaction paper that shows 1) their thorough understanding of the book in its entirety (or at least for the parts covered in class), 2) their having thought about the topics and issues critically, and 3) their ability to organize thoughts into a coherent and cohesive essay. The last week of the semester will have peer review sessions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

No.	Date	Period	Contents
1	Mon, Dec 23, 2019	3:00-3:50pm 4:00-4:50pm 5:00-5:50pm	Course Overview Lecture on Chapter 1 Reading workshop: Skimming and scanning
2	Thu, Dec 26, 2019	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Lecture on Chapter 2 Listening workshop 1: Note-taking skills
3	Fri, Dec 27, 2019	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Lecture on Chapter 3 Speaking workshop 1: Presentation skills
4	Mon, Dec 30, 2019	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Lecture on Chapter 4 Catch-up of Chapters 1 to 4
5	Thu, Jan 2, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 5 Writing workshop 1: Paraphrasing & summarizing
6	Fri, Jan 3, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 6 Writing workshop 2: Brainstorming
7	Mon, Jan 6, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 7 Midterm Review
8	Wed, Jan 8, 2020	3:00-4:15pm	Midterm Exam (Covers Chapters 1 to 8)
9	Fri, Jan 10, 2020	3:00-5:45pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 8 Presentation on Chapter 10
10	Mon, Jan 13, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 11 Writing Workshop 3: Organizing ideas
11	Wed, Jan 15, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 12 Writing Workshop 4: Formatting a paper
12	Fri, Jan 17, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 14 Writing Workshop 5: Citations
13	Mon, Jan 20, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 15 Writing Workshop 6: Peer Review 1
14	Tue, Jan 21, 2020	3:00-4:15pm 4:30-5:45pm	Presentation on Chapter 16 Final term review
15	Wed, Jan 22, 2020	3:00-5:45pm	Final Exam (Covers all chapters after midterm) Final draft of the reaction paper due the beginning of class