UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

RÍO PIEDRAS CAMPUS

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**English 3052: Developing Functions of Oral English - Level 3 (Part II) Spring 2018**

Section 001: Mon/Wed 11:00 AM – 12:40 PM

Classroom: LPM 308 / P 105\*

Credit Hours: 45 hours (3 credits)

Instructor: Cristal R. Heffelfinger-Nieves (cheffelfingerupr@gmail.com)

Office hours (Office P 12 or P 105): Mon/Wed 12:50 – 2:30 PM or by appointment

**Course Description**

This is the last segment of a year-long course designed for students with intermediate language proficiency in English. Students will continue to work on more advanced vocabulary, idioms, conversational strategies, pronunciation, spelling, and grammatical structures needed to achieve fluency in both spoken and written English. Class discussions and assignments will be complemented with listening comprehension and written production practice in a language laboratory.

**Course Objectives**

This course will help students:

* Communicate in English with naturalness and confidence
* Reflect upon and reexamine any negative attitudes towards the English language
* Demonstrate comprehension and appropriate contextual use of vocabulary items, common phrases, idioms, and other conversational formulas
* Acquire advanced grammatical structures and rules of spelling, required in reading and writing
* Learn appropriate pronunciation and intonation patterns necessary for speaking spontaneously or reading aloud
* Develop a deeper comprehension of oral and written materials in English
* Utilize their knowledge in creative ways, in both oral and written forms
* Apply intermediate-level English skills in analyzing, reviewing, and editing their own work, as well as that of their peers

**Course Requirements**

* Attendance to class twice a week, and to an independent weekly one-hour lab session
* A valid and active email account to receive notifications and course-related information
* The required textbooks and any other relevant materials

**Required Materials**

* **Textbooks (Set of 3)**

McCarthy, M. McCarten, J., & Sandiford, H. (2006). *Touchstone 3* (*Workbook* and *Student’s Book*). New York: Cambridge University Press. \*You will also need the *Touchstone 3 Video Resource Book* (copies available at the Lab or The Printing Machine) for the Walk-In sessions.

* **Journal or composition notebook**

**Teaching Strategies**

This course takes a communicative approach based on activities that stress interaction and active participation, such as role-playing, class discussions, individual and group work, debates, presentations, analysis of video segments, free writing, games, and improvisation, among others. The course also includes exercises from the *Touchstone 3 Workbook* to practice grammar and vocabulary, as well as several short journal entries to improve students’ overall writing skills. Finally, the course is complemented with the assigned work at the English Lab (Walk-In sessions).

**Cumplimiento con la Ley 51**: Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con la profesora al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo de asistencia necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. Aquellos estudiantes que requieran algún tipo de asistencia de acomodo también deben comunicarse con la profesora.

**Evaluation (see schedule and notes below)**

Tests (Midterm – 100 pts. / Final – 50 pts.) 150 pts. = 33%

Walk-In Lab sessions (10 – 10 pts. each) 100 pts. = 22%

Oral presentations (News report – 30 pts. / Debate – 50 pts.) 80 pts. = 18%

Homework (6 units – 10 pts. each) 60 pts. = 13%

Journal (10 entries – 2 pts. each + content and grammar – 10 pts.) 30 pts. = 7%

Attendance, class participation, readiness, effort 30 pts. = 7%

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450 pts. = 100%

**Grading system**: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59-0 = F

Students may benefit from **extra credit** if considered appropriate by the professor. There may be differentiated evaluation for students with special needs (**Ley 51**).

**Notes**

Tests: The Midterm Exam will cover Units 7-9, while the Final Exam will cover Units 10-12 (see dates in attached schedule). Both tests will be taken **in the classroom**, although there may be a **take-home assignment** as part of the Midterm. It is the student’s responsibility to come prepared to class to take each test. There will be **no** make-up exams, unless in cases of serious and legitimate emergency; the student should contact the professor and provide evidence as soon as possible.

Walk-In Lab sessions: These will take place at the English Language Resource Center (Pedreira 105). All students will be required to attend the lab independently for **fifty (50) minute periods** **on a weekly basis**, choosing a time slot that best suits their schedule (Lab Hours: Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM). The professor will not be present, but technicians Ángel Rivera and/or Marcos Osusa will be there to take attendance, provide instructions, and collect any assigned work. Attendance to the lab is **mandatory**. While assigned weekly, each lab session will be available for **a maximum of two weeks**. Students who fail to complete or turn in their work on time will receive a **zero (0)**, unless they present a valid excuse.

Oral Presentations: For their first presentation, students will participate individually in a series of “Monday News Reports,” in which they will highlight and analyze recent political, economic, and/or cultural developments at the national or the international level. For their final presentation, they will work in pairs in order to address a controversial topic, using a variety of interactive/creative strategies.

Journal: Students will be assigned 10-15 minutes **in class** to write a one-page journal entry based on a topic selected by the professor. They may be asked to read aloud and/or share the content of their entries. The professor will review the students’ journals at the halfway point (5 entries) in order to make corrections and suggestions for the future. It is crucial that students take these into consideration and show improved grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills.

Homework: Exercises from the *Workbook* will be assigned and will always be checked. Completeness, effort, legibility, accuracy, and creativity are the main criteria for evaluation. \*\*Students must submit their work **on time**. Any late assignments will see an automatic reduction of **10%** of the total score. Any work turned in more than a week past its deadline **will not be accepted**, and will receive a **zero (0)**.

Attendance, class participation, readiness, effort: Students are expected to come to class regularly and on time. If students miss a class, it is their responsibility to keep up with the material discussed/studied that day. Students will be awarded points for participating in discussions, exercises, and any other class-related activities. Showing effort and maintaining a positive attitude towards learning can go a long way.

**Class Policies**

* Students should keep their cellphones silenced during class, unless in case of an emergency (the professor should be properly notified). Emergency calls must be taken outside. The use of laptops, readers, and any other electronic devices for activities unrelated to class is not allowed.
* No disrespectful, discriminatory, or disruptive behavior will be tolerated.
* Since this is a Conversational English course, English will be the preferred language in class.

**\*Tentative\* Course Outline**

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| Date | Scheduled work/Activities |
| 3/12 | Greetings and introduction  Discussion of syllabus |
| 3/14 | Unit 7: Lessons A & B |
| 3/19 | Unit 7: Lessons C & D, Review  Journal entry #1 |
| 3/21 | Film screening  Journal entry #2 |
| 3/26 | **Monday News Reports**  Unit 8: Lesson A |
| 3/28 | Unit 8: Lessons B & C  Journal entry #3 |
| 4/2 | **Monday News Reports**  Unit 8: Review  Unit 9: Lesson A |
| 4/4 | Unit 9: Lessons B & C, Review  Journal entry # 4 |
| 4/9 | Midterm Review |
| 4/11 | **MIDTERM** |
| 4/16 | **Monday News Reports**  Midterm discussion  Journal entry # 5 **– JOURNALS COLLECTED** |
| 4/18 | Unit 10: Lessons A & B |
| 4/23 | **Monday News Reports**  Unit 10: Lessons C & D, Review  Journal entry #6 |
| 4/25 | Film screening  Journal entry #7 |
| 4/30 | **Monday News Reports**  TOPICS FOR FINAL PRESENTATION |
| 5/2 | Unit 11: Lesson A |
| 5/7 | Unit 11: Lessons B & C, Review  Journal entry #8 |
| 5/9 | Unit 12: Lessons A & B |
| 5/14 | Unit 12: Lessons C & D |
| 5/16 | Unit 12: Review  Journal entry #9 |
| 5/21 | FINAL PRESENTATIONS |
| 5/23 | FINAL PRESENTATIONS  Journal entry #10 – **JOURNALS COLLECTED** |
| 5/28 | Final Review |
| 5/30 | **FINAL EXAM** |