

English Language Studies

The English Language Section of the Modern Languages Department offers courses in composition, oral expression, and English as a second language. All courses have in common the aim of assisting students in all disciplines to improve their understanding of English language and communication.

English Composition and Speech

General Information

Intended for students who have already demonstrated proficiency in English, courses designated ELA (English Language) may be taken as free electives in any program. ELA 116: Effective Writing (or, alternatively, a course in English literature) is recommended for first-year students in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, but ELA116 is open to all students who wish to improve their written communication.

ELA116, ELA201 and ELA202 may be taken by advanced level ESL students as part of a Major in Modern Languages, a Minor in English Language Studies, or a Certificate of Proficiency in English as a Second Language.

Please note that no ELA courses may be counted towards an honours, major, or minor in English Literature.

Course descriptions

ELA 116ab Effective Writing 3-3-0

This course is designed for students who have already achieved a basic competence in writing. Students will read a variety of texts of different genres so as to become familiar with various types of academic and professional discourse. Students will be encouraged to analyse writing strategies, content, organization, and style with a view to improving their overall writing abilities. Students will also be made aware of different writing situations, particularly those that may arise in their own disciplines. Required texts normally include a grammar handbook and a book or collection of readings.

Prerequisite: Students are normally expected to have achieved a result of at least “3-” on the EWP Exemption Credit Examination before they attempt ELA 116. Students who need a course in basic writing are encouraged to register in the course English Writing Proficiency (EWP 099).

ELA 201 Applied Communications and Rhetoric 3-3-0

Practical writing course focusing on advanced projects in a chosen field. Students will assemble a portfolio of writings related to a particular discipline or professional environment. Topics will include genre and style, audience analysis. Students will research on and write in discipline-specific genres, contribute to a web-based magazine/journal, and produce other web publications (brochures, press releases, newsletters, etc.)

ELA 202 Speech 3-3-0

This course aims at improving students' oral communication in academic and professional situations while instilling an appreciation for the tradition of rhetoric and the varieties of spoken genres. Students will analyse famous speeches, debates, and other forms of oral discourse in order to appreciate logic, structure, rhetorical strategies, and other aspects of presentation. Students will be required to make several major and minor oral presentations which will be closely evaluated through the use of audio and/or video recordings (at the discretion of the instructor). Projects may include group discussions on current issues, symposia, debates, impromptu and extemporaneous speaking. Because of the intensive nature of the presentations and associated evaluation, student numbers will be limited.

Offered in alternating years (see current schedule).

English as a Second Language

English as a second language courses at the 100 and 200 level may be taken as free electives in any program, or they may be taken towards a Major in Modern Languages (English Language Studies Component), a Minor in English Language Studies, or a Certificate of Proficiency in English as a Second Language. (For more information, consult “Certificate Programs in Continuing Education: Certificate of Proficiency in English as a Second Language/Intensive English Language Studies”.)

Major in Modern Languages: English Language Studies Component

Minor in English Language Studies

In order to be accepted into these programs, students must have attained at least an intermediate level of competence in English. This level will be established according to the following criteria:

- 1) A result of over 40% on the Bishop's University E.S.L. placement test.
and
- 2) Successful completion of two CEGEP English Courses at the 604-100 level (normally 604-101 & 604-102).
or
- 3) A result of 480/157-525/206 on the TOEFL test.
or
- 4) A result of 575-690 on the TOEIC test.
or
- 5) A result of 4.5-5.5 on the IELTS test.

Students may also enter the Major/Minor Programs at the advanced level, which will be defined according to the following criteria:

- 1) A result of over 65% on the Bishop's University ESL placement test.
and
- 2) Successful completion of two Cegep English courses at the 604-100 level, including Anglais 604-102 and 604-103, with an average of over 75% in each.
or
- 3) A result of over 525/206 on the TOEFL test.
or
- 4) A result of over 690 on the TOEIC test.
or
- 5) A result of over 5.5 on the IELTS test.

These criteria will be subject to periodic revision by the Modern Languages Department. Please inquire at the Admissions Office for current requirements.

In all cases, the University's standards will prevail. The University reserves the right to deny admission into these courses and programs to students who are already proficient in English. The University also reserves the right to reassign students to different levels/courses/ programs should in-class performance be inappropriate for the level of instruction. Students who have completed a university program with English as the language of instruction will not normally be eligible for English Language Studies programs or ESL courses.

Course Groupings for Modern Languages Major (English Language Component) and Minor in English Language

Group I: Core Courses

- ESL 102: Beginners English as a Second Language II
- ESL 103: Intermediate English as a Second Language I
- ESL 104: Intermediate English as a Second Language II
- ESL 110: Introduction to English for Academic Purposes I
- ESL 111: Introduction to English for Academic Purposes II
- ESL 210: Advanced Writing and Text Analysis
- ESL 211: Advanced Communicative Skills I

Group II: Special Purposes/Special Focus Courses

ESL 121: English Grammar I: Tense and Idiom
ESL 122: English Grammar II: Tense/Stylistic and Text Analysis
ESL 125: English Phonetics and Pronunciation
ESL 126: Oral Discourse I
ESL 127: Oral Discourse II
ESL 131: Business English
ESL 133: English for Technology
ESL 212: Advanced Communicative Skills II

Group III: Writing, Literature, Translation Courses

ELA 116: Effective Writing
ELA 201: Applied Communications and Rhetoric
ELA 202: Speech
ENG 104: Approaches to Short Fiction
ENG 105: Approaches to Poetry
ENG 108: The American Short Story
ENG 110: English Writers of Quebec
ENG 111: Canadian Short Story
ENG 202: History of the English Language
FRA 301: Stylistique et traduction I
FRA 302: Stylistique et traduction II

NB: Any English Literature (ENG) course may count towards the Group III requirements, although we recommend first-year courses, in particular ENG 104, ENG 108, ENG 110, ENG 111. With the permission of the Modern Languages Department, very advanced ESL students may substitute ENG courses for one or more of their Group II requirements.

Major in Modern Languages: English Language Studies Component

Requirements

All students undertaking the English Language Studies Component of the Major in Modern Languages must complete 30 credits from course groups I, II, and III.

Intermediate Level Students:

Students entering at the intermediate level must complete four of the courses (12 credits) in Group I; including ESL 210 and ESL 211; three courses (9 credits) in Group II; and three courses (9 credits) in Group III, including ELA 116: Effective Writing.

Advanced Level Students:

Students entering at the advanced level must complete ESL 210 and ESL 211 (6 credits) in Group I; four courses (12 credits) from Group II; and four courses (12 credits) from Group III, including ELA 116: Effective Writing. NB: FRA 301 or 302 may be taken only by those students who are combining the English Language Studies and the French components of the Major in Modern Languages, and these courses may be counted only once towards the Major.

Minor in English Language Studies

Requirements

Students undertaking a Minor in English Language Studies must complete either 30 credits (if they enter at the intermediate level) or 24 credits (if they enter at the advanced level) according to the following stipulations.

Intermediate Level Students:

Students entering at the intermediate level must take four of the core courses (12 credits) in Group I including ESL 210 and ESL 211; (NB: Results of over 65% must be achieved in ESL 103, ESL 104, ESL 110 or 111 before students may take ESL 210 and 211).

Advanced Level Students:

Students entering at the advanced level must take ESL 210 and 211 (6 credits) in Group I.

All students must complete four courses (12 credits) from Group II and two courses (6 credits) from Group III, including ELA 116: Effective Writing. (NB: For other courses in group III, permission may be required from the Chair of the appropriate department).

Certificate of Proficiency in English as a Second Language/Intensive English Language Studies

Since 1977 students from Quebec and around the world have benefited from the opportunity to learn English as a second language on Bishop's campus. The Certificate of Proficiency in English as a Second Language may be pursued part- or full-time in the English Language Studies program and it comprises a sequence of courses in English as a Second Language, English Language and Composition, and/or English Literature.

Students who complete the Certificate will have attained a level at which they are capable of taking university courses in English, in addition to being able to use English comfortably on the job and in their leisure activities.

Admissions requirements:

Students at all levels may register for the certificate program; however, students must normally have reached an intermediate level of competence before being admitted to full-time status.

Please note: Students entering certificate/intensive studies at the beginning or intermediate level may not be able to complete all program requirements in two regular sessions.

Certificate Requirements

10 courses according to the following regulations and a cumulative average of 65% in courses taken towards the Certificate.

Group I

The following six courses are required (depending upon the level of entry into the program):

ESL 70ab English Second Language: Beginners I 3-3-0 EXT

ESL 102ab Beginners English as a Second Language II 3-3-0

ESL 103ab Intermediate English as a Second Language I 3-3-0

ESL 104ab Intermediate English as a Second Language II 3-3-0

Note: ESL 110 and 111 (Introduction to English for Academic Purposes I and II) may be substituted for ESL 103 and 104.

ESL 210 Advanced Writing and Text Analysis 3-3-0

ESL 211 Advanced Communicative Skills I 3-3-0

Following the result obtained in the Bishop's University ESL placement test, students may be exempted from some or all of the following courses: ESL 070ab, ESL 102ab, ESL 103ab, ESL 104ab. To replace these exemptions, students may choose courses from group III.

All students in the Program must complete ESL 210 and 211.

Group II

A minimum of three courses must be chosen from the following:

ESL 121	English Grammar I: Tense and Idiom	3-3-0
ESL 122	English Grammar II: Tense/Stylistic and Text Analysis	3-3-0
ESL 125	English Phonetics and Pronunciation	3-3-0
ESL 126	Oral Discourse I	3-3-0
ESL 127	Oral Discourse II	3-3-0
ESL 131	Business English	3-3-0
ESL 212	Advanced Communicative Skills II	3-3-0

Group III

At least one course must be chosen from the following:

ELA 116	Effective Writing	3-3-0
ELA 201	Applied Communications and Rhetoric	3-3-0
ELA 202	Speech	3-3-0

Any course with an ENG code.

English as a Second Language: Course Descriptions

Extra-Degree Credit Course

The following course is offered through the Office of Continuing Education in the evening and during the summer for extra-degree credit. **THIS COURSE MAY NOT BE COUNTED TOWARDS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS.**

ESL 70ab Beginners I 3-3-0 (extra-degree credit)

Students entering this level have had a limited exposure to the language and have little or no ability to communicate. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a knowledge of the basic sounds and structures of the language along with a confidence which will permit them to begin to have meaningful exchanges in the English-speaking world. Through various communicative activities and exercises in grammar and pronunciation, students develop basic listening and speaking skills. At this level, reading and writing are used primarily to assist in the acquisition of the structures of the language. Upon completion of this course students should be able to understand and respond to communication of a simple, specific nature.

Entry level: 0% to 28% on the placement test

Full-Credit ESL Courses

The following courses are offered both by the Office of Continuing Education (in the evening, summer and in various intensive programs) and by the Department of Modern Languages (English Language Section) in the regular day programs.

ESL 102ab Beginners English as a Second Language II 3-3-0

This course is intended for students who have already been exposed to the language, have a rudimentary understanding of its sounds and structures, and are able to communicate basic messages. The emphasis is on understanding and speaking, while students begin to participate actively in communication exercises and activities. Students are also introduced to simple reading and writing activities. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to function in a variety of real-life situations, and they should have a good knowledge of the basic structures of the language.

Prerequisites: 29% to 40% on the Bishop's ESL placement test or 65% or over in ESL 070.

ESL 103ab Intermediate English as a Second Language I 3-3-0

This course is for students who are able to communicate yet need additional exposure to the basic structures and functions of the language. Students participate in speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities which demand increasing independence and concentration. Upon completion of this level, students should be able to produce simple, clear written texts and convey a desired oral message in a variety of social, occupational, and educational contexts. They should also have developed an awareness of some of the more complicated structures of the language.

Prerequisites: 41%-52% on the placement test or 65% or over in ESL 102

ESL 104ab Intermediate English as a Second Language II 3-3-0

This course is for students who are able to communicate with confidence in a variety of situations yet wish to improve their knowledge of and proficiency in the more complicated structures and functions of the language. Basic structures are reviewed at this level, but the main emphasis is on introducing students to more unusual grammatical and idiomatic structures and to more complex

tasks and materials. Students are exposed to a greater variety of reading sources and are required to write texts with increasing accuracy. Upon completion of this level students should be able to engage in extended discourse in a variety of social, occupational, and educational contexts.

Prerequisites: 53%-65% on the placement test or 65% or over in ESL 103

ESL 110ab Introduction to English for Academic Purposes I 3-3-0

This is a broadly focused course designed to familiarize students with the varieties of English that they will encounter in an academic milieu, and give practice in the skills that are essential to this milieu: comprehending lectures, reading texts of varying length and complexity, note-taking, summarizing, paraphrasing, presenting brief seminars. In addition, students will write and revise short texts with the aim of improving their command of grammar and vocabulary.

Entry level: 41%-52% on the placement test.

ESL 111ab Introduction to English for Academic Purposes II 3-3-0

This course is a continuation of Introduction to English for Academic Purposes I. Students will continue to be exposed to a wide variety of materials and will continue to improve in the four main skill areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, the emphasis at this level will be placed on activities of increasing complexity which require a greater degree of autonomy.

Pre- or corequisites: 53%-65% on the placement test, 65% in ESL 110ab, may be taken concurrently with ESL 110ab.

ESL 110ab and 111ab will typically be offered as part of an intensive program. Thus, they may require participation in various extracurricular activities. For example, students may be required to use the Media-Assisted Language Learning Centre, participate in intensive conversation groups, audit courses, attend presentations and other academically oriented functions, and submit reports, at the discretion of the instructor.

The passing grade for these courses is 50%; however, students will not be permitted to take advanced core courses until they have demonstrated adequate ability through achieving 65% or over in at least two 100-level ESL courses.

ESL 121ab English Grammar: Tense and Idiom 3-3-0

This course provides a comprehensive review of the basic tense systems in English, while focusing on grammar at the phrase and sentence level. Presentation of grammatical material will be contextualized and reinforced by oral and written exercises. Students will also learn phrasal verbs and various idiomatic features of the language (prepositions, gerund and infinitive collocations, article use).

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 122ab Advanced English Grammar:
Tense, Stylistic and Text Analysis 3-3-0

This course provides an examination of more complex aspects of English grammar (particularly tense), and the features of the language which contribute to text coherence. In addition, students will develop an understanding of the factors that influence style and structure in written texts, and register in spoken texts. They will also learn to employ different reading strategies to suit various texts and rhetorical situations.

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 125ab English Phonetics and Pronunciation 3-3-0

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of the stress, rhythm and intonation patterns of English. In doing so, it will assist students in their understanding of variations in formal and informal spoken English, and in improving the accuracy of their spoken language. Students will learn the International Phonetic Alphabet, and will be given extensive aural/oral exercises involving cassettes and/or CD-ROMS in the Media-Assisted Language Learning Centre.

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 126ab Oral Discourse I 3-3-0

In this course students will encounter different types of oral discourse and learn the organizational and presentation strategies necessary for effective oral communication. Although some emphasis will be placed on oral comprehension, most of the activities will provide students with practice in direct address before a group with special emphasis on effective organization of ideas and clear delivery.

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 127ab Oral Discourse II 3-3-0

This course continues to focus on the objectives of Oral Discourse I. However, at this level students will be exposed to texts of greater complexity, and there will be an increasing emphasis on more demanding rhetorical situations. Students will analyse speeches, engage in debates and impromptu and extemporaneous presentations. Students will also carry out research on current issues and engage in related discussions.

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 131ab Business English 3-3-0

This course will focus on improving business communication skills. Objectives will include the effective writing of e-mail correspondence, memos, business letters, and reports; effective oral communication in various settings on the telephone, in meetings, in debates and discussions. Students will also encounter videos, readings and discussions dealing with topics such as customer services, leadership, stress management, sexual harassment.

Prerequisite: Over 40% on placement test

ESL 210ab Advanced Writing and Text Analysis 3-3-0

This course is intended for students who have reached an advanced level of competence. Students will read a variety of texts from popular and academic sources and analyse them for grammar, structure, and rhetorical strategies. Students will also learn the conventions of the academic essay and the characteristics of English style and discourse.

Prerequisites: 66% or over on placement test; 65% or over in ESL 111a; or permission of instructor

ESL 211ab Advanced Communicative Skills I 3-3-0

This course is intended for students who have reached an advanced level of competence. Emphasis will be placed on familiarizing students with more complex aspects of grammar and communication, increasing vocabulary and knowledge of different text types, and improving listening and reading comprehension. At the end of this level students should be able to function comfortably in any anglophone environment, whether social, professional, or academic. There will continue to be a substantial writing component at this level. This may take the form of essays, reports or other assignments, at the discretion of the instructor.

Prerequisites: 66% or over on placement test; 65% or over in ESL 111; or permission of instructor.

ESL 212 Advanced Communicative Skills II 3-3-0

This course is a continuation of ESL211 in its approach, focusing on further developing the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Additional and more complex grammatical forms will be examined, particularly those which are common in everyday speech and writing but which often prove problematic for even advanced speakers of English as a second language. As with ESL211, practice will take place in a communicative environment. The reading and listening content of ESL212 will focus on English Canadian popular culture, with the intention of providing an introduction to this culture for francophone Quebecers, exchange students and new Canadians. There will continue to be an extensive writing component at this level.