

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

**Instructor:** Ryan Littman

**Contact Information:**

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\*Due to my limited conversation skills in Spanish, please consider emailing me or sending a text message. Written contacts will be translated using online translation software in order to provide an accurate and helpful response.

**Office Hours:** Monday 14:30 - 15:30 (Except on holidays)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to help English language learners improve their English language skills. The focus will be on developing proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will engage in a variety of individual and group activities to enhance their vocabulary, grammar, and overall communication skills.

**Technology Integration:** All assignments will be completed online, unless otherwise noted.

**Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Understand and use basic to intermediate English grammar structures.
2. Develop and expand vocabulary.
3. Use digital resources to improve reading comprehension skills.
4. Write clear and coherent paragraphs and essays.
5. Enhance listening and speaking abilities through interactive activities.
6. Gain confidence in using English in everyday situations.

**Required Materials:**

- Notebook and writing utensils
- Computer or tablet with a charger (This will be supplied by the school, but students may bring their own personal device.)

**Course Outline**

**Week 1: Welcome (August 5-9)**

- Course overview and expectations
- Team-building exercises and discussions

**Unit 1: Gothic Literature (Part 1)**

- Text: The Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allen Poe
- Vocabulary
  - **motivate**
  - **dimension**
  - **manipulate**
  - **psychological**
  - **perspective**

#### Unit 2: Gothic Literature (Part 2)

- Text: House Taken Over by Julio Cortazar
- Vocabulary
  - **annihilate**
  - **antiquity**
  - **fissure**
  - **dissolution**
  - **rending**
  - **tumultuous**

#### Unit 3: Gothic Literature (Part 3)

- Text: House Taken Over by Julio Cortazar
- Vocabulary
  - **spacious**
  - **unvoiced**
  - **obscure**
  - **recessed**
  - **vestibule**
  - **Muffled**
- Writing Skill: Writing an Expository Essay

#### Unit 4: Gothic Literature (Part 4)

- Texts: *Where is Here?* by Joyce Carol Oates / *"from The Dream Collector"* by Arthur Tress
- Vocabulary
  - **gregarious**
  - **Amiably**
  - **stoical**

#### Unit 5: Gothic Literature (Part 5)

- Texts: Why Do Some Brains Enjoy Fear? by Allegra Ringo / "beware: do not read this poem" by Ishmael Reed / The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe / "Windigo" by Louise Erdrich
- Vocabulary
  - **stimulus**

- **dissonance**
- **cognitive**

#### **Unit 6: Gothic Literature (Part 6)**

- No new vocabulary
- Deliver an Explanatory Presentation
- Peer review and editing

#### **Grading Policy:**

- All students must complete assignments in class to receive full credit.
- Late work will be accepted without penalty for students with excused absences.
- Unexcused late work may not receive more than 70.
- Students will receive feedback with specific commentary from Mr. Littman

#### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Attend all classes and be on time.
- Participate actively in class activities.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Respect classmates and the instructor.

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Online dictionaries and thesauruses
- Language learning apps (e.g., Duolingo, Babbel)
- ESL websites and forums

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions or need additional help, please feel free to contact me during office hours or via email.

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