

National Tsing Hua University
Upper-Intermediate English III: Listening and Speaking
Fall 2019

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Course description

This semester-based course is specifically designed to enhance freshman students' listening & speaking competence at the upper-intermediate level. Students are required to prepare the designated passages BEFORE class, ACTIVELY participate in classroom activities and complete exercise sections ON TIME.

Listening input: A variety of authentic English-speaking contexts, including university lectures, interviews, podcasts, and classroom discussions not only activate students' background knowledge of the topic, prime them for the authentic and inspirational content they will meet in the thought-provoking TED Talks, but also guide them systematically through strategies and activities to meet future academic, personal or professional goals. Specific and key academic skills are focused in each theme-based unit, where students effectively learn to predict, identify main ideas/details/inferences, take notes and manage lengthy input. Pronunciation is also highlighted as an aid to improving both listening comprehension & speaking fluency.

Speaking output: Presentation skills inspired by the TED speakers give students the techniques & authentic language they need to successfully deliver their own presentations, help them gain the opportunity to personalize the language they learn, and build their confidence in expressing ideas and opinions. Visual/digital literacy will be promoted through lots of infographics and speaking activities designed to involve students working with a partner or in a group. With connected ideas and integrated language skills, students will give individual, pair and group projects/presentation regularly throughout the semester.

The ultimate goals of the course are to encourage students to take charge of their learning and to facilitate their essential 21st century skills—collaboration, communication and critical thinking.

University Student Core Competency Indicators

25%	1. The ability to communicate and express oneself in English
25%	2. The ability to think critically and organize ideas logically in English
20%	3. The knowledge of English learning strategies and techniques
15%	4. Global views of English and multicultural diversity
15%	5. The ability to use existing English learning resources and development of independent self-learning habit

Required textbook

Christien Lee (2017) *21st Century Communication, Listening, Speaking, and Critical Thinking*. Student Book 4. National Geographic Learning & Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-95547-9

Online learning platforms

1. Online workbook MyELT: myelt.heinle.com
2. iLMS: <http://lms.nthu.edu.tw/>

Grading policies

1.	<p>Attendance and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Success in this class depends on regular and punctual attendance. ● Each late arrival will result in a 2-point deduction of the semester grade. ● Each unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction of the semester grade. ● Students are required to email the instructor to request a leave of absence. The grant of a leave of absence is within the discretion of the instructor. ● Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. A total of four absences will result in a failing grade. ● Missing 15 minutes of class—arriving late, departing early, or leaving during class—counts as half an absence. 	15%
2.	<p>Final exam (mainly on listening & vocabulary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About 80%: Designated units #1, 3, 5, & 8 (listening & vocabulary) ● About 20%: Self-study units #4 & 6 (Part 2 TED Talks for listening only) 	25%
3.	Quizzes (designated units + self-learning units)	10%
4.	Group presentations	20%
5.	Final project: TED-style talk	15%
6.	<p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Self-learning units ● Listening exercises ● TED Talk assignments 	15%

Classroom activities

- Lectures
- Assignments
- Unit quizzes
- Listening comprehension activities
- In-class (pair/group) discussions
- Student presentations

Information about assignments and classroom activities

- An excused absence does not negate the student's responsibility for classroom activities or assignments due during his or her period of absence.
- Late submission of assignments is not accepted.
- Use of mobile devices is strictly prohibited.

Weekly schedule

Week	Date	Content Topic	Class Activity
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1.	9/9	Course introduction & Orientation		
2.	9/16	Unit 1 Free Therapy	<p align="center">Part 1 Upgrade Your Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Listening: Listen for supporting evidence ✚ Speaking: Emphasize key details ✚ Pronunciation: Use pauses effectively <p align="center">Part 2 TED TALKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ron Gutman: <i>The hidden power of smiling</i> ✚ Note Taking: use visuals to guide your NT <p align="center">Part 3 Put it Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Communicate: group presentation ✚ Presentation skill: use visuals effectively 	
3.	9/23			
4.	9/30			
5.	10/7			
6.	10/14			Unit 3 Listen Up!
7.	10/21			
8.	10/28			
		Group presentation #1		
9.	11/4	Quiz #1		

10.	11/11	Unit 5 Fear Factor	<p>Part 1 Fear in the Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Note Taking: use abbreviations for numerical details ✚ Listening: recognize repetition ✚ Speaking: ask questions ✚ Pronunciation: thought groups <p>Part 2 TED TALKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Karen Thompson Walker: <i>What fear can teach us</i> <p>Part 3 Put it Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Communicate: individual presentation ✚ Presentation skill: support your message with a story
11.	11/18		
12.	11/25		
13.	12/2		Quiz #2 + Group presentation #2
14.	12/9	Unit 8 Life Hacks	<p>Part 1 Self-Tracking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Listening: recognize a speaker's attitude ✚ Speaking: express your view strongly ✚ Pronunciation: stress & intonation in comparisons & contrasts <p>Part 2 TED TALKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Sebastian Wernicke: <i>Lies, damned lies, and statistics (about TED Talks)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Note Taking: note key information on slides
15.	12/16		
16.	12/23		
17.	12/30	Final project: TED-style talk	
18.	1/6	Uniform Final Exam (mainly listening & vocabulary)	