

ACADEMIC ENGLISH STUDIES

Director: Laura Shier

In 1972, Lewis & Clark College instituted a program of English language study for nonnative speakers of English. Formerly known as the Institute for the Study of American Language and Culture (ISALC), this program is now Academic English Studies (AES). AES offers nonnative speakers the opportunity to enroll in low intermediate through advanced English language courses. Students may take a full-time schedule of language courses. They may also take AES courses for credit while enrolled in a degree program or a term of overseas study.

Program of Study

AES is dedicated to fostering a diverse community of highly qualified learners within the undergraduate college. The program's mission is to provide low intermediate to advanced instruction in English as a foreign language for nonnative speakers. Sociocultural objectives are reflected in classroom practices designed to assist students in developing cross-cultural awareness and in improving multicultural relations. Students learn how to communicate fluently and effectively in an academic setting. Through content-based language courses, they are exposed to major assumptions, knowledge, and approaches encountered within a liberal arts institution. Courses emphasize meaning and process while providing the framework for language instruction. Students read a wide variety of unadapted texts and sources, recognize and develop different writing styles and rhetorical patterns, engage in in-depth research, and develop complex analytical and critical problem-solving skills in English.

Admission

AES offers English courses to all Lewis & Clark students who are nonnative speakers. Placement in AES courses is determined by a proficiency exam administered when those students arrive on campus. The low intermediate courses, AES 101 Low intermediate Reading for Nonnative Speakers through AES 107 Low Intermediate Reading/Writing Core for Nonnative Speakers, may not be counted toward graduation from Lewis & Clark. However, students may apply up to 24 elective credits earned in AES 110 and above toward the 128 credits required for graduation. If students earn more than 24 AES credits, it is the final 24 credits that will be counted and included in cumulative GPA calculations. For more information on the undergraduate admission process for international students, see International Student Admission.

Costs

For information regarding AES program fees, Lewis & Clark's withdrawal policies, and other financial matters, please refer to the Costs section in this catalog.

Faculty

John A. Barritt. Instructor in English language. MA 2009 New School University. BA 1986 University of California at Berkeley.

Suzanne L. Groth. Instructor in English language. MA 2002 Portland State University. BA 1995 University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Erica Harris. Instructor in English language. MA 2009, BA 2004 Portland State University.

David Hoffman. Instructor in English language. MA 2010 Portland State University. BA 2007 Western Oregon University.

Alexis E. Olson. Instructor in English language. MA 2008, BA 2002 University of Oregon.

Brittney Peake. Instructor in English language. MA 2011, BA 2008 Portland State University.

Laura Shier. Director of Academic English Studies Program and Instructor in English language. MA 1989, BA 1985 University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Julie Vorholt. Instructor in English language. MA 2000 Monterey Institute of International Studies. BS 1993 Kent State University.

Courses

AES 103 Low Intermediate Communication Skills for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with a focus on development of listening and speaking skills. Designed to complement other AES courses at the 100 level. Topics of conversation and sources of new vocabulary, idioms, and sentence patterns are taken from texts, newspapers, magazines, audiovisual materials. Not applicable toward graduation. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 8 semester credits.

Prerequisites: Placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 105 Low Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language instruction topics, which vary from semester to semester. Topics include the English of math, economics, sociology, anthropology, biology, ecology (climate change, sustainability), international affairs (globalization). Duration: first half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 105 and AES 106) each term. Not applicable toward graduation. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: Placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 106 Low Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language instruction topics, which vary from semester to semester. Topics include the English of math, economics, sociology, anthropology, biology, ecology (climate change, sustainability), international affairs (globalization). Duration: second half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 105 and AES 106) each term. Not applicable toward graduation. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: Placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 107 Low Intermediate Reading/Writing Core for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study, 10 hours/week. Reading component focusing on strategies, vocabulary expansion, and critical thinking through intensive reading exercises and extensive reading of adapted literary sources. Writing component focusing on sentence, paragraph, and essay structure. Sentence variety, punctuation, grammar, and process writing emphasized. Introduction to a variety of rhetorical patterns.

Prerequisites: English proficiency exam.

Restrictions: Credits do not count toward graduation.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 4-8.

AES 108 Low-Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: Literature for language development. Focus on development of language through intensive and extensive reading of adapted and graded readers of fiction and nonfiction.

Prerequisites: Language placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 4.

AES 127 Intermediate Reading/Writing Core for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study, 10 hours/week. Reading component focusing on strategies, vocabulary-building, and critical thinking through intensive and extensive reading of adapted and unadapted texts. Writing component focusing on paragraph and essay structure and developing grammatical competence and idiomatic usage. Introduction to library research skills and academic integrity. Research paper required.

Prerequisites: AES 107 or English placement test.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 4-8.

AES 130 Intermediate Communication Skills for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with a focus on development of academic note-taking and listening skills, vocabulary, and extensive oral work. Structured undergraduate academic class observations. Community contact through service-learning projects required. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 8 semester credits.

Prerequisites: AES 103 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 150 Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language instruction topics, which vary from semester to semester. Topics include computer applications, environmental issues, U.S. culture, current events. Duration: first half-semester. Students take two modular courses each term (AES 150 and AES 151). May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 105 and AES 106, or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 151 Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language instruction topics, which vary from semester to semester. Topics include computer applications, environmental issues, U.S. culture, current events. Duration: second half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 150 and AES 151) each term. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 105 and AES 106 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 163 High Intermediate Communication Skills for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with a focus on exploring academic disciplines through authentic video content and lectures by undergraduate faculty. Student-led discussions and debates on academic themes. Practice synthesizing abstract concepts and theories and developing seminar-oriented discussion skills. Research and give formal presentations on academic topics. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 8 semester credits.

Prerequisites: AES 130 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 165 High Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with an emphasis on developing integrated skills in critical reading, discussion, consensus-building, research, crafting argumentative writing, and giving substantive formal presentations. Exploration of authentic content in a specific academic discipline, abstract concepts and theories, and appropriate field-specific terminology. Topics vary from term to term and typically are representative of the humanities (for example, English literature), the social sciences (sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, or sociolinguistics), or the natural sciences (such as sustainability or ecology). Duration: first half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 165 and AES 166) each term. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 150 and 151, or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 166 High Intermediate Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with an emphasis on developing integrated skills in critical reading, discussion, consensus-building, research, crafting argumentative writing, and giving substantive formal presentations. Exploration of authentic content in a specific academic discipline, abstract concepts and theories, and appropriate field-specific terminology. Topics vary from term to term and typically are representative of the humanities (for example, English literature), the social sciences (sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, or sociolinguistics), or the natural sciences (such as sustainability or ecology). Duration: second half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 165 and AES 166) each term. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 150 and AES 151, or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 167 High Intermediate Reading/Writing Core for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study, 10 hours/week. The process of academic writing: paraphrasing, summarizing, citing, and critically responding to abstract concepts in written form, using authentic source material. Reading component focusing on unadapted source material, including undergraduate textbooks. Emphasis on evaluating and synthesizing sources. Expansion of academic vocabulary, complex grammatical structures, rhetorical patterns. Documented research paper required.

Prerequisites: AES 127 or English placement test.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 4-8.

AES 198 Special Studies

Prerequisites: Placement exam.

Semester credits: 1-4.

AES 210 Advanced Reading for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study based on unadapted readings of cultural and academic interest, fiction, and nonfiction. Focus on reading strategies, critical reading and thinking skills, as well as vocabulary acquisition skills and increased reading speed. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 8 semester credits with change of text.

Prerequisites: AES 161 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 221 Advanced Writing for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with extensive practice in academic writing. Emphasis is on developing a wide variety of sentence types and rhetorical patterns; appropriate writing and formatting conventions, particularly as they relate to research (i.e., citations, documentation, databases, Internet resources, other reference materials); issues of academic integrity. Includes a comprehensive review of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, spelling. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 4 semester credits.

Prerequisites: AES 161 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 222 Advanced Writing for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English language study with extensive practice in academic writing. Emphasis is on developing a wide variety of sentence types and rhetorical patterns; appropriate writing and formatting conventions, particularly as they relate to research (i.e., citations, documentation, databases, Internet resources, other reference materials); issues of academic integrity. Includes a comprehensive review of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, spelling. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 4 semester credits.

Prerequisites: AES 221 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 230 Advanced Speech Communication for Nonnative Speakers

Content: Advanced English language study with a focus on the development of small-group and public speaking skills. Introduction of practical speech, communication principles, rhetorical styles, and critical listening requirements for successful interaction in the classroom.

Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 4 semester credits.

Prerequisites: AES 163 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 240 Seminar for Nonnative Speakers

Content: Advanced English language study with a focus on a specific academic subject. Seminar format drawing upon all language skills through lectures, small-group discussions, presentations, projects, and research, culminating in a formal paper and oral presentation. Offered as two 2-credit sections in summer. May be repeated for a total of 8 semester credits with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 163 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2-4.

AES 244 Practicum

Content: Opportunities for well-prepared students to apply English language training to practical work in the private or public sector. Specific activities vary, usually involving work with a public agency or private group. Students must consult the faculty supervisor about the program prior to enrolling, submit a weekly e-mail journal, and write a final report on the practicum experience. This course is not available to AES-only students. Federal authorization is required for curricular practical training for international students. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: AES 162, AES 221, or AES 222

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 1-4.

AES 250 Advanced Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English instruction on an academic topic, which varies from semester to semester. Topics include media, information technology, controversial issues, linguistics, and literature. Development of analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Duration: first half-semester. Students take two modular courses each term (AES 250 and AES 251).

May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 165 and AES 166 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 251 Advanced Content-Based Topics for Nonnative Speakers

Content: English instruction on an academic topic, which varies from semester to semester. Topics include media, information technology, controversial issues, linguistics, and literature. Development of analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Duration: second half-semester. Students take two modular courses (AES 250 and AES 251) each term. May be taken twice for credit with change of topic.

Prerequisites: AES 165 and AES 166 or placement exam.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 2.

AES 260 Introduction to Modes of Inquiry

Content: Requires full participation in undergraduate class. Focus on note-taking, aural comprehension, and application of language skills required to succeed in an academic setting. Weekly meetings with audit supervisor to synthesize course content. May be repeated for up to 8 credits.

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 4.

AES 298 Special Studies

Prerequisites: Placement Exam.

Semester credits: 1-4.

AES 299 Independent or Directed Study

Content: Opportunities for well-prepared students to design and pursue a substantive course of independent learning. Details determined by the student and the supervising instructor. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: None.

Usually offered: Annually, fall, spring, and summer.

Semester credits: 1-4.