

English 2C: “Using the Internet for Independent Language Study”

University of Tokyo; School of Liberal Arts

Instructor: Ralph ROSE <crose@mail.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp>

Time: Friday, 3rd or 4th Period Location: Room 1221

Overview

The aim of this course is two-fold: to develop students' ability to access, comprehend, and make use of Internet resources as well as to develop their skill to evaluate the suitability of online materials for their own future language study. Towards these ends, classroom activities will make use of a wide variety of Internet-based audiovisual materials including lectures, podcasts, news and entertainment videos, blogs, and so on. The beginning of the course will be largely teacher-directed. However, students will gradually take more and more control of the lessons until by the end of the course, students are directing the lessons in a relatively autonomous manner.

Schedule (tentative)

18 Apr	Guidance
25 Apr	Initial comprehension test; TED talks
2 May	Podcast: NPR
9 May	Blogs: Slate
16 May	TED: economy of drugs
30 May	MIT lecture
6 Jun	Video: The Daily Show
13 Jun	Student-selected materials
20 Jun	
27 Jun	
4 Jul	
9 Jul (Wed)	
11 Jul	Final comprehension test

Textbook and Materials

- There is no textbook for the course.
- Students must have a reliable means to access the Internet (home or school)
- Handouts will be provided by the instructor
- Class web page at my Toudai web site: <http://user.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~crose/>

Lessons and Weekly quizzes

Each lesson will take one material for comprehension (e.g., text, audio recording) as the focal point. A variety of activities will be undertaken related to the text: some activities will focus on comprehension of the material itself, other activities will extend beyond the material and relate it to real life. Some activities will be done as a class, some in small groups or pairs, and some individually. Then, at the beginning of the following lesson, there will be a short quiz covering the material discussed in the preceding lesson or assigned as homework.

Initial/Final Comprehension Tests

On the first and last day of class, there will be a comprehension test. This test is designed to help the instructor get a clearer idea of each students' level. While the results of the test will not be factored into the final grade directly, exceptional performance on the test may influence final grades.

Student teaching: Group projects

Students will gradually take more responsibility for choosing materials to use in lessons, presenting these materials to the rest of the class, deciding activities to interact with the materials, and even preparing quizzes.

Grades

Students will be evaluated primarily on performance on weekly quizzes as well as completion of lesson-planning in the latter half of the course. Exceptional performance on the initial and final comprehension tests may also be factored into the final grade. In addition, attendance (including punctuality) and class participation can significantly influence grades.