



FOUNDATIONS COMMUNICATION SKILLS COURSE INFORMATION

2011-12

TEACHER/ CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Elma Muangkroot	Room 8-407	elmam@isb.ac.th
EAL Office	Room 8-410	TEL: 02-963-5800, ext. 8855

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Foundations Communication Skills course, an intensive ESL speaking and listening course, is to enable students to meet the communicative and social demands of grade 9 at ISB. The course will also provide students with an orientation to ISB and the high school. Speaking, listening, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and cross-cultural skills will be studied in an integrated manner grounded in authentic situations, purposes and needs of high school students. The aim of this course is for students to become confident and skilled communicators and integral members of the ISB community. Foundations students earn 1 elective credit upon successful completion of this year-long course, or 0.5 elective credits per semester.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

Students in the Foundations Communication Skills course will...

1. develop integrated skills, knowledge and attitudes that support greater speaking and listening fluency
2. use a range of functional language—expressive, interactional and directive—for a variety of authentic situations and purposes (BICs and CALPs)
3. become oriented to ISB and an international education

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to contribute to an effective learning environment by coming to class ready to learn, participate and try their best.
- It is expected that students will complete all assigned work on time.
- Students are expected to keep all course materials (class notes, handouts, assessments, etc.) organized in a binder.
- It is expected that students come to class with all necessary materials.

TEXTS/ MATERIALS

A variety of texts and materials will be used. Students are to bring the following items to class each day:

- loose leaf paper and binder
- pens, pencils, erasers, whiteout, and highlighters of different colors
- a flash drive
- an electronic dictionary (daily use) and paper dictionary (tests, exams, quizzes)

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

- Students will be regularly assessed and grades will be given based on progress made towards meeting the curricular (learner) outcomes for the course.

15% Formative assessment or assessment “for” learning gives information during student learning about progress and about how to improve. These assessments include class work, quizzes and other periodic checks for learning.

85% Summative assessment or assessment “of” learning show how much learning took place. These longer assessments are often given at the end of a unit and determine the final grade. They include projects, presentations, essays and tests.

HAL GRADING / EXPECTATIONS

- The following habits and attitudes to learning (HAL) will be periodically reported using a 1- 7 scale (1 = very poor; 4 = satisfactory; 7 = excellent). Refer to your Student Handbook for details:
- Attendance & Punctuality: absences and tardies are excused, and discussed with teacher in advance where possible
- Preparation: necessary materials are brought to class; assignments / homework are complete and brought to class when due
 - including use of PantherNet or other online resources as assigned
- Work Habits: is prepared and focused on studies during class; attentive and listens carefully to instructions and feedback; participates / works well during class; late or missing work is promptly submitted; is an independent learner
- Behavior/ Initiative: makes connections, questions and reflects upon own learning; treats others respectfully; contributes to a positive learning environment

GRADE REPORTS

- PowerSchool (<http://powerschool.isb.ac.th>) provides parents and students access to up to date grades throughout the year.
- A cumulative semester grade appears on the official transcript.