

Trine University
Jannen School of Arts and Sciences
English Language Center

Course Descriptions by Level

Level 1

ESL 0105 Grammar I

The focus of this course is on parts of speech, word order, imperatives, and questions and negation in the present tenses. It also includes an introduction to the past tense.

ESL 0112 Vocabulary I

The emphasis of this course is on the practice of over 2,000 essential vocabulary words for everyday situations.

ESL 0125 Reading I

Intensive work is provided on basic word skills and contextual and structural cues to determine meaning. Emphasis is placed on main ideas and details of beginning-intermediate reading passages, with reading of limited non-prose graphs and charts included. There is also an introduction to book reports and group presentations on elementary outside readings.

ESL 0135 Writing I

Practice is given in writing complete sentences with appropriate word order, spelling, and punctuation in the present and past tenses. There is also an introduction to paragraph writing and elementary methods of cohesion.

ESL 0155 Conversation I

This course includes practicing beginning-level dialogues, with a focus on proper pronunciation of all the sounds of American English and an introduction to stress and intonation patterns. Students also practice listening to basic conversations while building their vocabulary and starting to understand meaning from context. Emphasis is on both verbal and non-verbal conversational skills.

ESL 0163 ESL Lab

Students use interactive software to improve basic English skills. This course may be taken multiple times and is graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.

Level 2

ESL 0202 Irregular Verbs

Students focus on the spelling, pronunciation, and use of over 120 American English irregular verbs. There is also an introduction to the base, past, and past participle forms of irregular verbs along with when and how to use them. Additional practice in irregular verb usage is given for some phrasal verbs.

ESL 0205 Grammar II

This course provides a review of the imperative and present tenses, with intensive work on simple past and past progressive tenses, four forms of the future, modals, and adjectives and adverbs.

ESL 0225 Reading II

This course provides intensive work on intermediate word skills and contextual and structural cues to determine meaning. Emphasis is on learning to find main ideas and details of intermediate to advanced reading passages.

Extra practice on non-prose reading such as menus, graphs, tables, charts, and maps is provided. Out-of-class readings with book reports and individual presentations are required.

ESL 0235 Writing II

The focus of this course is on basic composition skills such as pre-writing, organization, transitions, thesis statements, topic sentences, appropriate detail, sentence combining, basic mechanics of writing, and spelling.

ESL 0242 Idioms

Students study nearly 500 everyday idioms, phrasal verbs, and colloquial expressions and how to use them appropriately.

ESL 0253 Conversation II

Students intensively practice intermediate-level dialogues with appropriate intonation and proper pronunciation of all the sounds of American English with an introduction to stress and intonation. While listening they also learn to distinguish American English sounds in context, determine meaning from tone of voice, and understand idiomatic conversations at regular speed. Emphasis is on both verbal and non-verbal conversational skills.

ESL 0263 ESL Lab

Students use interactive software to improve intermediate English skills. This course may be taken multiple times and is gGraded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.

Level 3

ESL 0304 Grammar III

This course provides a review and practice of all verb tenses, adjectives, adverbs, and modals. Extra practice is given in using gerunds and infinitives, tag questions, the passive voice, more modals, and conditionals.

ESL 0312 Vocabulary III

The focus is on English-English dictionary use and prefix, suffix, and root word usage. Intensive work is provided on using context, word parts, and logic to discover the meaning of unfamiliar words.

ESL 0325 Reading III

Students practice all reading skills at an advanced level to prepare for college-level reading assignments. Emphasis is on discussion, critical-thinking skills, and outside readings with book reports and presentations.

ESL 0335 Writing III

Students review of basic composition skills with a focus on coherence devices, multiple support techniques, proper formatting, and usage of secondary sources. Emphasis is on appropriate organization for various types of compositions such as comparison/contrast, process, narrative, cause-effect, and persuasive essays.

ESL 0353 Speaking III

Practice is on advanced-level dialogues with proper pronunciation and intonation. Introduction to public speaking techniques is applied to individual presentations.

ESL 0353 Listening III

This course provides intensive practice in deriving meaning from longer conversations, speeches, and academic lectures. Emphasis is on note-taking skills and discussion of information from listening exercises.

ESL 0363 ESL Lab

This course uses interactive software to improve advanced English skills. This course may be taken multiple times and is graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis.

Level 4

ESL 0405 TOEFL Grammar

This course provides a review of all verb tenses, the passive voice, modals, and gerunds and infinitives, along with an introduction to conditionals, indirect speech, and embedded questions. Emphasis is on writing and editing skills.

ESL 0425 Reading and Vocabulary IV

This course provides students with practice in reading while enhancing their vocabulary skills at a high-advanced level to prepare them for college-level reading assignments. Emphasis is on discussion, critical thinking, and formal presentations.

ESL 0485 Writing with Grammar

This course reviews basic composition skills with a focus on more advanced skills such as coherence devices, multiple support techniques, proper formatting, and usage of secondary sources. Emphasis is on appropriate organization for various types of compositions such as comparison/contrast, process, narrative, cause-effect, and persuasive essays with an emphasis on grammatical accuracy.

ESL 0495 Communication Skills

Students practice reading about real-life situations, asking appropriate questions, thinking creatively, presenting ideas in logical order, listening and responding to both conversational and academic American English spoken at normal speed, and pronouncing all the sounds of American English.

Open-door Policy

Our ESL program has an open-door policy. This means that students are always welcome to visit with an ESL teacher during their office hours or whenever they are available in their office. In fact, we encourage students to go to their teachers with any questions or concerns they may have about a particular class or assignment that they are working on. We are here to help students learn English, and it is essential that they feel free to see us whenever they need to.

ESL Orientation

The first week of ESL is set aside for orientation classes for all newly-arrived international students. During this time many students are adjusting their schedules, getting settled into their new living situations, recovering from jet lag, and adapting to a new way of life. To ease the transition to so many changes in their lives, no homework is assigned nor is there any pressure on students to talk in class. Instead, we cover information that is beneficial to our students' lives at Trine. We make this a relaxed time as we get to know each other and as students become accustomed to hearing the American English that they are newly immersed in. Students are encouraged to talk only when they are ready and often about light subjects or their own cultures. The topics of discussion are varied, but all are centered on facilitating our students' transition into the American classroom and culture. This approach to the start of their English language studies promotes a relaxed learning atmosphere for the rest of the school year.

A Note on Culture Shock

There will be times when new students feel sad and get homesick. This is natural. It is difficult to live in a country with a different language, culture, customs, and food. The best way to combat the negative effects of culture shock is to learn the language and become involved in the new surroundings. There are many activities on campus, and we highly recommend that our ESL students participate in campus life as much as possible.