# English Conversation and Composition

# Dong-A University Department of English

# Fall 2013

**Professor:** Joe Carrier

**Office Hours:** Rm. 1116 by appointment. (email: joeteacher.donga@gmail.com)

**Text:** McCarthy, Michael, et al. *Touchstone 2.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

**Course Description:**

**Speaking and Listening:** This course is designed to introduce conversation strategies, grammatical constructions, vocabulary, and common expressions that will allow students to speak English naturally in formal and informal settings. Objectives include: attaining basic fluency in specific common situations; becoming self-confident as a speaker in both small groups and oral presentations; obtaining the skills necessary to speak English in conversation on a given topic without rehearsed dialogue; building key word vocabulary skills.

**Composition:** A portion of this class will be dedicated to studying English writing skills. We will be studying primarily syntax: Parts of Speech, Types of Sentences, and Sentence Construction. The final writing project will be a complete paragraph.

**Standard of Assessment:**

* **Grading:** Final grades for this class based on the following: Attendance: 20 points; Class Participation: 20 points; Special Project: 20 points; Mid-term Examination, 20 points; Final Examination, 20 points. The university dictates the use of a curve to calculate the grades. The top 30% of the students will have an A+ or A, the second 40% of the students will have a B+ or B, and the bottom 30% will have a C, D, or F. Grades will not be changed after the grading period.
* **Attendance**: There will be a 5 point deduction for each absence. Points will not be deducted for absence if the student presents suitable written explanatory documentation (ex. Doctor's note) signed by the dept. secretary (A1017). Late=absent. 5 absences= F.
* **Participation**: You are expected to show up on time, prepared, every day. The classroom is a community in which every member must participate. If you have a comment or question, speak up. Your feedback might be exactly what another student needs to hear at that moment. Your question is probably on the mind of several other people anyway. It is *critical* that you help each other as much as possible. A major portion of your classroom participation grade will be based on your interaction with other students. Needless to say, respect and concern for the welfare of the individuals in this class and the class as a whole is paramount. Also: this class will be conducted entirely in English. Speaking Korean in class is strictly prohibited and will result in a deduction of class participation points.
* **Special Projects** will be assigned and the instructions will be given at a later time. Special projects will be a creative group collaboration and the teams will be graded on the content of the project and the quality of their presentation. Groups will be awarded one grade unless it is discovered that an individual student did not participate fully, and then points may be deducted from their individual score.
* **Examinations** will be given in two formats, oral and written, over two periods during the course of the semester. The oral examination will be conducted in my office in pairs and will assess the student’s ability to use dialogue used in classroom. The written exam will cover grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and writing.

**Course Calendar:**

This coursework schedule is presented as a blueprint for our semester’s work. It is not by any means written in stone. If changes are made to the schedule, I will inform you in class. Telling me that you were not aware of changes will be no excuse if assignments are not handed in on time: check with fellow students or me if you are unsure.

**Week One**. Syllabus distribution and course introduction. Unit 1 “Making Friends”

**Week Two** Unit 2 “Interests”

**Week Three** Unit 3 “Health”

**Week Four**. Unit 4 “Celebrations”

**Week Five**. Unit 5 “Growing Up”

**Week Six**. Unit 6 “Around Town”

**Week Seven**: **Oral Midterm.**

**Week Eight: Written Midterm.**

**Week Nine**. Unit 7 “Going Away”

**Week Ten**. Unit 8 “At Home”

**Week Eleven**. Unit 9 “Things Happen”

**Week Twelve**. Unit 10 “Communication”

**Week Thirteen**. Unit 11 “Appearances”

**Week Fourteen**. Unit 12 “Looking Ahead”

**Week Fifteen. Oral Final.**

**Week Sixteen**: **Written Final.**