



**Center for Applied Linguistics and Language Studies**  
**English Language Program**  
**Course Description**

**Course Name: Proficiency II**

**Course Code: Proficiency II**

**What will I learn?**

Through this course, you will develop level:

- accuracy and fluency in speaking and writing
- awareness of the writing process
- reading sub-skills
- listening sub-skills

**What is the level of this course?**

This course aims at the C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). At this level you can:

- understand with ease virtually everything heard or read.
- summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.
- express themselves spontaneously very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

**What are the components of the course?**

The course content includes vocabulary, grammar, real world, speaking, listening, reading, writing and educational technology components.

- The **writing** component consists of activities that guide students through major aspects of the writing process such as: planning; text structure; paragraph structure; articles; summary; opinion essay. Students are exposed to a variety of essays which they assess as writers and then express their own ideas in writing. Students might be asked to revise their writing if needed.
- The **reading** component consists of reading original texts that vary in genre, voice, mood, and cultural origin. Readings vary in length and level of difficulty. Students will develop their reading and vocabulary skills and strategies through engaging themes and intensive practice. Topics include: money; water; film and TV; passions.
- The **speaking** component consists of group discussions and debates on topics such as money; water; film and TV; passions. The following skills will be emphasized: explaining; checking understanding; agreeing and disagreeing; talking about yourself; giving and justifying opinions; specific ECPE speaking skills. In addition to class work and participation, there will be 2 officially marked speaking activities per student.
- The **listening** component consists of listening to authentic radio interviews, radio reports, discussions, short talks, and lectures on topics such as money; water; film and TV; passions. The following skills will be emphasized: types of distractor; identifying diagrams; focusing on stems; fact or opinion; specific ECPE listening skills.
- The following **grammar** items are included in this course: Present time, Future time, Past time, Present perfect, Passive, Conditionals, Unreal time and subjunctives, Modals: present and future, Modals: past, Inversion, Emphasis, Reported speech, Articles, Relative and non-finite clauses, Verbs + infinitive or -ing, Verbs + prepositions, Prepositions, Phrasal verbs, Punctuation and spelling.

**ECPE Preparation Component:** The course content includes writing, reading, speaking, and listening components.

- The writing component consists of students being trained in essay writing skills. Students will write at least one essay per week.
- The reading component consists of reading test task types, through which students reading skills are developed, as well as their background knowledge.
- The speaking component consists of group discussions, as well as practice in the types of speaking activities found in the final of the ECPE.
- The listening component consists of listening to and thoroughly going over practice tests for the ECPE, along with practicing the sub skills of listening. Students will also be given instruction in how to develop their note taking skills.
- The grammar component of the course consists of the class going over the grammar items contained in all the practice tests covered. Students will be helped to apply their knowledge of grammar rules through elicitation and discussion of the distracters. Students will also be helped to focus on the function and meaning of the stems of questions in the test.
- The vocabulary component of this course consists of the class going over the vocabulary contained in each of the practice tests, as well as consolidation through reading, speaking and writing.
- Students will also receive training in taking timed tests and strategies for the test.