

Academic Skills (Wednesdays 18:20-21:30)

This course will run from April 8th and will focus on common topics in ethics. By participating in this class, students will learn how to understand and discuss lectures at universities in native English-speaking countries. Because the content will be difficult, the minimum overall TOEFL iBT score required to join the class will be **61 or above**. If your score is lower, you may still join the weekly classes but will not be expected to write any essays. However, please note that consistent attendance is also *very* important, and you may be asked not to return if you fail to attend at least 80% of the weekly classes.

Students will listen to a full-length (approximately sixty minutes) lecture given by the acclaimed philosopher, Michael Sandel. Below are the lecture topics and class schedule:

Week One: Introduction
Week Two: Essay Writing and Oral Presentations Workshop
Weeks Three & Four: Lecture – “The Moral Side of Murder”
Weeks Five & Six: Lecture – “Libertarianism and Human Rights”
Weeks Seven & Eight: Lecture – “Human Rights and Government”
Weeks Nine & Ten: Lecture – “Is War Conscripted Just?”
Weeks Eleven & Twelve: Oral Presentations

As you can see, each new lecture will be divided into two weeks.

First Week:

18:20-19:50	Students will listen to the lecture for the first time with English subtitles, which will be stopped every ten-fifteen minutes to give students time to ask the teacher (and each other) questions and understand the main ideas of the lecture.
20:00-21:30	Students will discuss the main ideas of the lecture together with the help of the teacher, including criticism of any of the arguments explained by the professor.

Second Week:

18:20-19:50	Students will listen to the same lecture as last week, but this time they will hear it in two thirty-minute intervals and <i>without English subtitles</i> . After each thirty minute section, students will summarize that half of the lecture, and the teacher will make any corrections and answer questions if necessary.
20:00-21:30	Students will discuss the main ideas of the lecture together one last time and debate their different ideas. Because it is the last class, the teacher will mainly be there to initiate critical feedback from each student and ask students several questions.

Assignments:

1. Essays

From 18:20-19:50 of Week Two the teacher will explain how to organize and write a 2,000 word (around four pages double-spaced) essay in response to one of the finished lectures. The teacher will demonstrate proper organization and logical criticism of ideas by providing sample paragraphs from a highly-graded university essay. Students will then have two weeks to complete the essay. Overall, one essay per month will be written on *one* of the two lectures (of the student's choosing) that have been completed in-class.

2. Oral Presentations

In addition, from 20:00-21:30 of Week Two each student will learn how to give an effective oral presentation. However, actual presentations will not be performed until the final two weeks. In the last two weeks, each student will give a 15-minute oral presentation with power point slides on one of the lectures that were discussed. The presentations will include a basic summary and critical analysis of the lecture's main ideas. The non-presenting students in the audience will be expected to offer feedback after each presentation and discuss the contents together, including asking the presenter many questions.