

**English 474**  
**Issues in ESL**

**Fall 2008**  
**Iлона Leki**

**OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to some of the major basic theories, trends, and issues surrounding teaching English as a second/foreign language. By the end of the course you should have general sense of:

- the basic structure of the English language;
- the general history and the political implications of teaching ESL/EFL;
- some of the current ideas about second language acquisition;
- learner variables in language learning;
- traditional and more innovative approaches to ESL/EFL;
- the way ESL students themselves experience learning English.

**READINGS:**

Fu, D. My trouble is my English  
Johnston, B. Values in English language teaching  
Larsen-Freeman, D. Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching  
Lightbown, P. & Spada, N. How languages are learned  
McKay, S. Teaching English overseas  
Yule, G. Explaining English grammar (optional)  
Packet of articles online at the library

**REQUIREMENTS IN THREE PARTS:**

**I. 25 points:**

One exam on structures of English.

**II. 50 points:**

- a) Weekly correspondence journal with a student from an ESL class.
- b) Five one-hour tutoring/conversation sessions with an ESL student plus reflection on the experience.
- c) Evidence of keeping up with readings.
- d) Analysis of the ESL methodologies.
- e) Bi-weekly written progress reports on term project (see below).
- f) Grammar and other exercises and readings as assigned.
- g) Conscientious, consistent preparation and participation, including attendance.

**III. 50 points:**

Term project and oral presentations:

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to investigate the answer to some question you have about ESL/EFL, teaching ESL/EFL, or learning ESL/EFL.

For grad students only: In addition, anyone taking the course for graduate credit must individually submit a short final report.

**GRADES:**

Exam	25 points
Effort	50 points
<u>Term project and presentation</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Maximum	125points

A = 105-125; B = 95-105; C = 85-95; D = 75-85; F = below 75