University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Practical English I, PG_00177146		
Field of study	American Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	12.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of American Studies -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Joanna Tillack	
	Teachers	dr Alicja Chmiołek mgr Sarah Flamminio dr Joanna Tillack mgr Karol Plichta	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	120.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	120
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	120	8.0	172.0	300

Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to improve practical knowledge of American English, taking as a starting point in the first semester level C1 and the target level - C1+ according to CEFR. Language training will include four operational skills: listening and reading comprehension, speaking and creating written academic texts. During the course, students will expand the range of vocabulary and language structures and their appropriate application, practice grammar on the basis of different texts, including academic texts, as well as develop language fluency and correct pronunciation.The Practical English I module consists of: Integrated Skills, Grammar for Academic Purposes and a Course in Academic Writing.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERMU2_U09] Is able to independently plan and implement their own lifelong learning and guide others in this area within the framework of American studies and their chosen field of professional activity.	Is able to independently plan and implement his/her own lifelong learning of practical English as a second language and to guide others in this area within the framework of American studies and a chosen field of professional activity.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_U06] Is able to lead a debate, including on American literature and culture, present and evaluate different opinions and positions, and discuss them.	Can conduct a debate in English at C1+ level, presenting, evaluating and discussing different opinions and positions.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
	[AMERMU2_K08] Is prepared to observe, develop and promote ethical principles in the performance of tasks related to the study programme, in research work in the field of American literary and cultural studies, and in professional work.	Is ready to respect, develop and disseminate ethical principles in the performance of tasks related to practical English language learning at C1+ level.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_U03] Is able to properly select sources and evaluate, select, critically analyse, synthesise, creatively interpret and present the collected information, using advanced information and communication techniques, in particular in the field of American literary and cultural studies.	Is able to appropriately select sources and evaluate, select, critically analyze, synthesize, creatively interpret and present the collected information, using advanced information and communication techniques within the scope of practical knowledge of English at C1+ level.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_K01] Is prepared to critically assess the scope of their knowledge and skills, especially in the field of American literary and cultural studies, contextual knowledge of American studies and the English language.	Is ready to critically assess the scope of her knowledge and skills, especially in the area of practical English at level C1+.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[AMERMU2_W15] Knows and understands the concepts and principles of copyright and property protection applicable to research work in the field of American literary and cultural studies and in the context of chosen professional activity.	Knows and understands the concepts and principles of copyright and property protection applicable to the preparation of written assignments in academic written language at C1+ level.	[SW3] text preparation/written work
	[AMERMU2_U07] Is able to use English at C2 level, prepare written work and oral presentations in accordance with cultural norms of communication, including in academic contexts.	Can use English at C1+ level and prepare written work and oral presentations in line with cultural norms of communication, including in academic contexts.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	**The integrated course component** The lexical and grammatical scopes correspond to the contents of the textbook at the C1+ level according to the CEFR. The problems addressed in the 1st semester concern the consolidation of the English in Use and lexical content defined for this level. To this end, the student will perform tasks involving sentence transformations using the indicated phraseology, practice word building, collocations, translations into Polish and English. In terms of reading comprehension, the student will read textbook and authentic texts in order to create correct answers confirming his understanding of the content. During the listening comprehension test exercises the student will correctly draw conclusions from the statements or dialogues heard, accurately understanding and analyzing their content. Suggestions for thematic areas to work on lexis, structures and language skills include: the prevalence of drugs and drug addiction as a social problem, plastic surgery - arguments for and against, tolerance in the global intercultural reality, the phenomenon of terrorism, the dangers of modern technologies. **Written academic language** Language of academic texts: preparation of academic texts, specifics of academic language, work on coherence of thought, clarity of presentation, stylistic correctness. Construction of academic text - consistency within the text, conjunctions and discursive markers, punctuation. Using university databases and online sources; learning how to create bibliographies, label text sources, create footnotes and endnotes; defining the concept of plagiarism; introducing ways to cite text sources in written work, paraphrasing and summarizing longer text passages; analyzing, evaluating and assessing data; distinguishing between facts and opinions; learning to recognize discrepancies in the data we have; becoming familiar with patterns of correct inference and expression of thoughts in sentences (sentence logic); recognizing important interdependencies in a text; presenting and discussing various functions of discourse. Discussion of excerpts from students' own works and texts. **Academic Grammar** Using verb forms in academic language: using tenses for fact and non-fact. Creating own conditional clauses based on given situations; using inversion; modal verbs and the passive to improve the cohesion of the text; effective use of nominalization; improving the use of articles in an academic text; the use of relative clauses, participles and shortened constructions for stylistic purposes in academic language.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge of English at C1 level. To pass the first semester of the Practical English Module, the student must successfully complete each of its parts, i.e. the integrated skills, academic writing and academic grammar courses, obtaining at least a satisfactory mark. The final grade is the average of the marks for each component of the Practical English Module.
Assessment methods and criteria	

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Academic Grammar: written tests	51.0%	35.0%
IS: written/speaking tests: reading, listening, use of English, group presentations; speeches	51.0%	30.0%
Academic Writing: essays and tests	51.0%	35.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	**Academic Written English:** Horkoff, T. (2015). Writing for Success 1st Canadian Edition. BCcampus. https://opentextbc.ca/writingforsuccess/ Morley , J. (2023). Academic Phrasebank. University of Manchester. Macpherson, R. (2004) .English for Academic Purposes. PWN.. MLA Handbook. 9th ed., MLA, 2021. • https://harvardwritingcenterblog.com/ • https://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/ **Academic English Grammar:** Caplan, Nigel A. Grammar Choices for Graduate and Professional Writers, 2nd ed., University of Michigan Press, 2019. Stevenson, Richard. Advanced Grammar for Academic Writing. Academic English Publications, 2010. Authentic academic articles in English **Integrated Skills** McCarthy, Michael, Felicity O'Dell. *English Phrasal Verbs in Use Advanced*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP 2002. McCarthy, Michael, Felicity O'Dell. *English Collocations in Use Advanced.* Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2009. McCarthy, Michael, Felicity O'Dell. *English Vocabulary in Use Advanced.* Cambridge: Cambridge UP 2002. Rottenberg, Annette and Donna Haisty Winchell. (2009) T*he Structure of Argument.* Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Wellman, Guy. (1998). The Heinemann ELT *English Wordbuilder*. Macmillan Publishers. and others. Authentic video/audio materials; press and scientific articles from various sources. Internet resources related to the subject matter and the introduced lexical area.

	Supplementary literature	**Academic Written English:** Romig, A, J. (2010). A Guide to Writing a Senior Thesis in History and Literature. Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University. **Academic English Grammar:** Gethin, Hugh. *Grammar in Context. New Edition*. Nelson, 1992 Hewings, Martin. Advanced Grammar in Use. CPU, 2013. **Integrated Skills** Martin's. Swan, M. Practical English Usage. OUP.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Varieties of American English. Academic English for writers of research papers. MLA vs other styles.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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