

# 發展英語 – *Star Things: Background to the Star Wars Universe* – Spring Semester

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian G. Rubrecht, Ph.D.

**Class Place / Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Class Materials:**

- (1) notebook (for writing new vocabulary, taking class notes, etc.)
- (2) electronic or paper dictionary
- (3) file or binder for handouts, homework **(which is VERY IMPORTANT!!!)**

## **Class Objectives:**

The overall theme of this spring-semester course is the background to the Star Wars universe. In this course, students will (1) practice their English skills, with particular emphasis on learning new vocabulary, phrases, idioms, and grammar; (2) learn the history and details of *Star Wars* through the medium of English, including aspects of storytelling, myth, and popular culture; and (3) understand that the exploration of the cultural phenomenon that is *Star Wars* allows for a better understanding and appreciation of the many traits that make us all human and help us to comprehend the larger world around us.

## **Class Activities:**

We will go through lecture slides. Students will be expected to take notes on new vocabulary, phrases, and idioms. Some class time will be devoted to discussion and the exchanges of opinions and experiences.

## **Weekly Schedule:**

The university syllabus provides a weekly schedule. However, adjustments to semester lessons (and the syllabus) may be made depending on several factors: (1) how well students understand the material, (2) the pace of student in-class interaction, (3) appropriateness and interest in the material, and (4) how serious students are about learning/participating in class.

## Grading Explanation:

### • Class contribution – 20% This grade is a mix of factors.

[1] Students receive 1 point for every class they attend.

[2] You must come to class ON TIME. My watch is the *MAGIC WATCH*. Class starts on time, but if you are 5 minutes and 1 second late, you will be late (you will lose points). **An excuse of a late train will not be accepted.** If you have special requirements that keep you from coming to class on time, inform me at the beginning of the semester. As a rule, try to arrive before class starts.

Also:

➔ ***Missing more than 3 classes will result in course failure!*** ⬅

[3] students must participate in every lesson, which means **taking responsibility and being a good student!**

pay attention    no sleeping    have a good learning attitude  
actively learn    keep file or binder organized  
complete homework on time    bring all class materials  
no smartphones, iPads, or laptops in view (without permission)

If you forget any class material, sleep, do other work, not pay attention, etc., you will receive 0 participation points for that day. OUCH! Some students fail because they are not being responsible by being *students*. I have two eyes, you know...

*Download Handouts:* go here and print out any necessary handouts:

<http://www.kisc.meiji.ac.jp/~rubrecht/>

### • Quizzes – 30%

Quizzes will be given after most lectures (either immediately after or at the start of the next lesson). There are no make-up quizzes for students who miss a quiz.

• **Homework – 30%**

It is important to do the homework assigned because (a) there will only be a few assignments, (b) homework will probably be used in the next lesson, and (c) homework will prepare you for other things. Because homework is due to be checked *by 5 minutes into class, late homework will not be accepted.* Please come to class on time on days when homework is to be checked so that I may check that your homework has been completed. **DO NOT DO HOMEWORK IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE CLASS.** Students caught doing homework like this, copying homework from other students, etc., will receive a zero for their class contribution and homework points for that day. **ZERO POINTS!!!**

• **Group activity – 20%**

Students will participate in a group activity. This will be explained later.

• **Confirmation Sheet – 5 points keep or lose from final grade**

**Essentially, if you come to class on time, work diligently, try hard, and have a positive attitude, you will get a good grade for this class.**

NOTE: I would prefer that you LEARN and ENJOY the class rather than struggle and be miserable, but that depends on YOU. It will be as instructive and as fun as you make it. ☺ Just remember: lying or cheating = automatic class failure.

**Additional Information:**

If you need help with the lessons, or if you would like to talk about something with me, please talk to me. You may contact me ANY TIME by email if necessary.

Also, if you miss a class, *you will still be responsible* for understanding class information and for doing assigned homework. Not doing homework because you were absent or because “you did not know about it” is not an excuse. Ask your classmates about the lesson you missed or ask me.