

English: Gate – 1st Year – Fall

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

Class Meeting Information: Day: _____ Period: _____ Place: _____

Email: rubrecht@meiji.ac.jp

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

★ This syllabus **supplements** other university syllabi/information.

Class Outline:

Students will participate to improve their English reading and writing skills. Typical activities include reading passages, grammar exercises, and paragraph writing. Students will engage in learning and skill building of all language areas.

Class Objectives: The objectives of this course are for students to:

- (1) gain confidence in writing English
- (2) learn/practice paragraph structure
- (3) develop reading skills for general understanding
- (4) develop English grammar skills; (5) develop useful life skills

Class Materials:

- (1) looseleaf notebook paper; (2) a water-based (水性) marker
- (3) electronic or paper dictionary
- (4) file or binder for handouts **← VERY IMPORTANT!!!**
- (5) handouts (only one set per student)

Grading Explanation:

• Class Contribution 1: Attendance – 10%

Students receive 1 point for every class they attend. Also: *missing more than 3 lessons will result in course failure.*

• Class Contribution 2: Punctuality – 10%

You must come to class ON TIME. Students arriving 5 minutes after class begins will lose points (even 1 second late = late). **An excuse of a late train will not be accepted.** If you have special requirements that keep you from being punctual, you must inform me at the beginning of the semester.

• Class Contribution 3: Participation – 10%

This grade consists of participation and positive class attitude. It is ALSO about how well students work with others and using ENGLISH in class.

• Class Contribution 4: Responsibility – 10%

Students must be responsible (as adults) and participate in every lesson. This means **taking responsibility and being a good student!**

pay attention no sleeping have a good learning attitude
actively learn bring all class materials complete homework on time
use the water-based marker keep file or binder organized
no smartphones, iPads, or laptops in view (without permission)
no AI use like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. (without permission)

• Homework: 30%

Homework is due to be checked *by 5 minutes after class begins, so late homework will not be accepted.* Thus: come to class on time. **DO NOT DO HOMEWORK IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE CLASS.** Students doing homework like this, copying homework from others, etc., will receive **ZERO POINTS THAT DAY.**

• Final Exam: 30%

The final exam will be an in-class writing assignment. Students will be expected to apply what they have learned during the semester to this writing assignment.

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

Weekly Schedule:

Lesson (and syllabus) changes are possible based on (1) students' understanding of 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.

Additional Information:

- ✓ Talk to me if you need help (email is OK).
- ✓ Absent students are *still responsible for understanding class information and for doing assigned homework.* The “I did not know about it” excuse does not work. Please be an adult. Act responsibly. Ask your classmates about the lesson you missed or ask me.
- ✓ Lying, cheating, or improper use of AI (in any course) = **course failure.**
- ✓ Following instructions in this class is for YOUR benefit. If you follow instructions, then you will be fine, so let's enjoy our time together! ☺

