
ACADEMIC SKILLS I+II
DOSHISHA WOMEN' S COLLEGE (DWC)
MARC SHEFFNER
APRIL – JULY. 2018

Course overview

- Text: Sellen, D. “The British Isles”. Black Cat, 2011.
 - dwc@sheffnersweb.net
 - <http://www.sheffnersweb.net/blogs/classblogs/dwc/>
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ACADEMIC SKILLS I+II

(AS1, AS2)

A. How to pass

1. One oral academic presentation
 2. One written academic report
 3. Weekly notes and/or reports
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WHAT TO EXPECT 1

- Instruction in academic format, including citation and bibliography (MLA style)
 - A reading list for independent reading
 - A movie list for independent study and historical background
 - Short presentations
 - To understand key ideas in Western/British civilisation
 - For listening and note-taking practice and summarising
 - Guidance in basic research skills:
 - research question,
 - how to search,
 - how to put collected information into your own words.
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WHAT TO EXPECT 2

- In class
 - Whole class activities, small group activities, independent work
 - Reading textbook & doing textbook exercises
 - Listening to short presentations, taking notes and summarising
 - Doing research in small groups and reporting your findings to the whole class
 - Writing your research reports and sharing with the whole class
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WHAT TO EXPECT 3

- Homework
 - Reading (assigned and self-selected)
 - Watching movies and/or videos
 - Researching
 - Writing, preparing presentations and reports
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DRAFT SYLLABUS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- Week 1: Adam and Eve
 - Week 2: Adam and Eve
 - Tower of Babel
 - Noah's Ark
 - Early Britons
 - Roman invasion
 - King Alfred the Great
 - 1066 And Feudalism
 - The Renaissance
 - The Reformation (Luther, Gutenberg)
 - the Scientific Revolution
 - the Enlightenment
 - Capitalism, mercantilism
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ACADEMIC SKILLS I/II

(AS1, AS2)

- Your instructor
 - British, born in England of French mother and English father (both bilingual)
 - Attended a grammar school
 - University degree in modern languages and literature (French & German)
 - 40+ academic presentations and papers on teaching English as a foreign language
 - 20+ years of teaching academic writing, including thesis-writing supervision
 - Interests: reading, writing, history, economics, political theory, movies, music, Aikido
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