GS 490
Reading, Writing, and Speaking
For International Students

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TEXTBOOKS
1. GS 490 Packet at Copy Mat (in Chauncey Hill Mall), a binder, and 16 dividers

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of GS 490 is for each student to improve his or her reading, writing, and speaking ability. The students will develop an approach to reading that enhances their understanding, reading efficiency, and critical reading skills. The students will develop writing skills that emphasize correct grammar, syntax, and organization of ideas. The students will learn classroom presentation skills and develop their spoken English ability through class discussion.

ATTENDANCE
In accordance with university policy, students are expected to attend every class. After one absence, 1% of your grade will be deducted. Two times being tardy will equal one absence.

GRADING POLICY
Each student’s grade will be determined by improvement in the following three areas: reading (30%), writing (30%), and speaking (30%). The remaining 10% will be based on the student’s joining and participating in a university or community organization (5%) and reading and discussing the common read book, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (5%). The standard plus/minus grade scale will be used. Academic honesty is expected in each student’s work.

READING
Each student will read a weekly article and answer and hand in questions related to the article. In conjunction with each article, the students will discuss and apply a reading skill. The students must participate in the class discussion to improve their speaking ability and to earn credit. Vocabulary development will be emphasized in reading through context.

WRITING
Students will learn how to organize ideas through different patterns of writing. There will be brainstorming of ideas during class, pair work, group work, and time in class to plan how to write the assigned paper. Guidance will also be given on correct use of grammar and appropriate style to use in academic writing. Several papers will be assigned during the semester which will be sent to the instructor on a Word file for comments and correction. New use of vocabulary will be encouraged for the written papers.

Speaking
Students will deliver three short academic presentations in these areas: describing an object, explaining a process or procedure, and giving a problem-solution speech. As they deliver the presentation, the other students will be evaluating their delivery in different areas such as organization, use of linking words, eye contact, and use of voice.