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Agos Japan

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総合英語コース

Comprehensive English Level 2-B
Reading and Writing

Sciences

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CE RW L2B

Course Description

This course is a pre Test Prep course taught in both Japanese and English, encompassing a variety of disciplines, Neuroscience, Biology, Earth Sciences, and Astrophysics, which are frequently on TOEFL and IELTS. Although they seem very abstract and difficult, they will all help you understand yourself, your surroundings, and your future. Even if you are not particularly fond of science, don't worry. The presented examples will be all interesting, practical, and relatable. If you have taken CE Level 1 course, you can deepen your understanding of the world even more. The course is designed in such a way that you will be able to acquire four essential skills at once: test taking, academic writing, academic reading, and scientific methods.

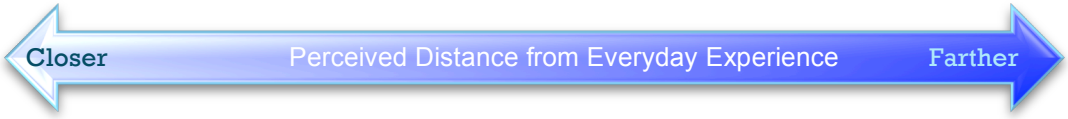
The students are required to attend every class as all the contents taught in this course are interlinked with one another. You are expected to read and understand the assigned texts at home and submit a writing assignment every weekend. In the beginning of every class, there will be a reading comprehension quiz and recitation exercise of the assigned materials. You will revise your own essay in class based on the comments from the instructor. In no time, you will be writing a strong argument, a vivid description, and an insightful analysis in English.

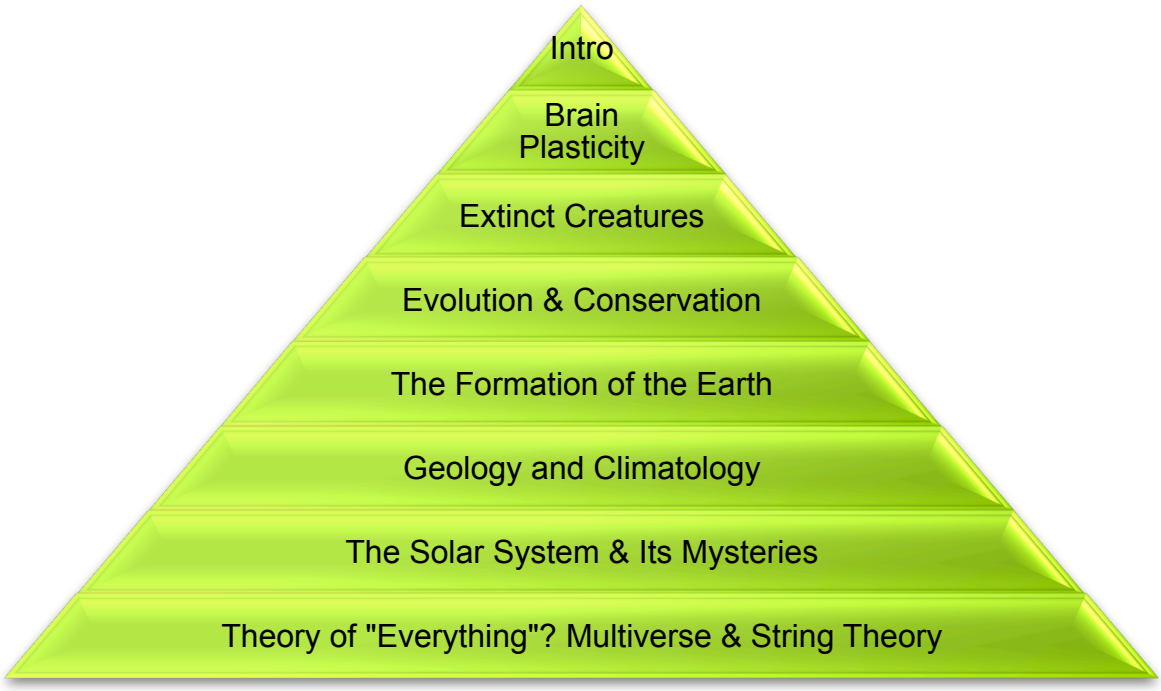
＜コース概要＞

総合英語コースレベル２B は TOEFL と IELTS に頻出する、脳科学、生物学、地球科学、そして天文物理学など多岐に渡る大学レベルの理科学系の教科をわかりやすい英語と日本語で学習するプログラムです。抽象的で難易度が高いように見えますが、一度学べば自分自身、周りの環境、そして未来までの理解を深めることができます。特に科学が好きでなくても心配は無用です。それらの分野における様々な具体例は、興味深く、実用的で、関連性の高いものです。総合英語コースレベル１を履修済みであれば、あなたの世界への理解をよりいっそう深めることができるでしょう。このプログラムは TOEFL, IELTS などのテスト準備、学術論文の執筆法、学術的洋書の読み方、そして科学的方法という、留学に必要不可欠な４つのスキルを一度に身につける事ができるようにデザインされています。

授業内容はそれぞれ複雑に連結しているため、授業にはなるべく参加するようにしてください。そして毎週自宅で、宿題のリーディングを読み、理解してから授業に参加してください。授業の始めにリーディングのテストと朗読のエクササイズがありますので、家での学習が授業を理解するための要となります。更に、毎週末に E メールでエッセイを提出してもらいます。添削したエッセイを授業で返却、解説し、さらに講師からのコメントをもとに自ら授業で宿題のエッセイを推敲します。これを毎週繰り返すことによって、いつの間にかあなたも説得力のある議論を繰り広げ、鮮明な描写をし、そして洞察力に長けた分析ができるようになります。

Themes





From Day 1 to Day 8, the students will gradually acquire tools for abstract thinking, knowledge and vocabulary.

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<Syllabus>

PART I Neuroscience

Day 1: Introduction to the course & to Neuroscience

Homework due None (Yay!)

In-class reading
1. "How to study for this course" (or any course for that matter…)
2. "Brain: the Most Complex System Known"

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    i. "How to study for this course"
    ii. "Brain: the Most Complex System Known"
2. Physiology of the Brain
    a. Brain in Our Everyday Lives
    b. Brain on (Legal) Drugs
3. How to write academic essays
    i. The basics of academic writing
    ii. Three steps: brainstorming, outlining, writing

In-class writing
1. *Essay 1: "Are you a 'right-brained' or 'left-brained'? Explain why with specific examples."*
    a. Brainstorming
    b. Outlining

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Thoughts and the Brain"
    b. "How to Create a Dream Brain"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay 1 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

Day 2: Neuroplasticity

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Thoughts and the Brain"
    b. "How to Create a Dream Brain"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Predicting
    b. Finding main ideas
2. Neuroplasticity
    a. Long-term effects of thoughts
    b. Your Helpful Brain
3. How to write academic essays
    i. Introduction and thesis

In-class writing
1. *Essay 1: "Are you a 'right-brained' or 'left-brained'? Explain why with specific examples."*
    a. Write and hand in Essay1 Draft2
2. *Essay 2: "What is your 'dream brain' like? How can you create it?"*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "The Best Ever—Cambrian Explosion"
    b. "The Worst Day for Dinosaurs"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay 2 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

CE RW L2B

Part II Biology: Evolution and Extinction of Animals

Day 3: The Beginning of life

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "The Best Ever—Cambrian Explosion"
    b. "The Worst Day for Dinosaurs"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Labeling and categorizing
    b. Reading for details
2. Evolution and Natural Selection
    a. From Microorganisms to Humans
    b. "Weird" ancestors of ours
3. How to write academic essays
    i. Body paragraphs
        ii. Topic sentences
        iii. Examples & Signals

In-class writing
1. *Essay 2: "What is your 'dream brain' like? How can you create it?"*
    a. Write and hand in Essay2 Draft2
2. *Essay 3: "Extinction of dinosaurs, the strongest animals at the time, helped us humans to emerge. Now that we are the strongest species, should we go extinct for something else to evolve?"*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Natural Extinction"
    b. "Why Do We Need to Conserve Wildlife?"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay 3 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

Day 4: Conservation of Wildlife

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Natural Extinction"
    b. "Why Do We Need to Conserve Wildlife?"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Labeling and categorizing
    b. Summary
2. Extinction & Conservation
    a. How do animals go extinct?
    b. What Happens if Humans Disappeared from the Earth?
3. How to write academic essays
    i. Logical flow and transitions
    ii. Conjunctions & Causal relations

In-class writing
1. *Essay 3: "Should humans go extinct for something else to evolve?"*
2. *Essay 4: "Some people think governments should spend as much money as possible exploring outer space. Other people disagree and think governments should spend this money for our basic needs on Earth. Which of these two opinions do you agree with?" (TOEFL Ind. Topic 95)*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "When Baby Earth Was Born "
    b. "Where Did the Water on Earth Come From?"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    b. Submit Essay 4 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

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Part III Magnificent Earth: Geology, Oceanography, and Climatology

Day 5: How the Earth Formed

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "When Baby Earth Was Born "
    b. "Where Did the Water on Earth Come From?"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Main ideas and details
    b. Text insert
    c. Sentence completion
2. The Birth of the Earth
    a. Violent Beginning of the Earth
    b. Unsolved Mysteries of the Earth
3. How to write academic essays
    a. Logical flow and transitions
    b. Conjunctions & Causal relations

In-class writing
1. *Essay 4: "Should governments spend more money on space projects or on our basic needs?" (TOEFL Ind. Topic 95)*
2. *Essay 5: "What is your favorite part of the Earth? Give specific examples to support your opinion."*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Why We Live on 'Plates' "
    b. "Our true hero, the magnetic field"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay 5 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

Day 6: Plate Tectonics, Weather, & Magnet

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Why We Live on 'Plates' "
    b. "Our true hero, the magnetic field"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Main ideas and details
    b. Table completion
    c. Inferences (intention)
2. Geology & Climatology
    a. Plate Tectonics and Magnetic Field
    b. Why do we have 'weather'?
3. How to write academic essays
    a. Effective organization
    b. Coming up with examples

In-class writing
1. *Essay 5: "What is your favorite part of the Earth? Give specific examples to support your opinion."*
2. *Essay 6: "If Japan were to drift to another continent, which continent would you like to be part of?"*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "The Universe and the Solar System"
    b. "Does the Sun have an evil twin, 'Nemesis'?"
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay6 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

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Part IV Astrophysics: The Fate and The Chance

Day 7: The Solar System

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Universe and Solar System"
    b. "Does the Sun have an evil twin, 'Nemesis'?"
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. Matching Headings
    b. Referencing pronouns
    c. True, False, Not Given
2. The Solar System
    a. Is Nemesis a serial killer?
    b. Magnetic Field of Earth
3. How to write academic essays
    i. Differences btw analysis and description
    ii. Effective conclusion

In-class writing
1. *Essay 6: "If Japan were to drift to another continent, which continent would you like to be part of?"*
2. *Essay 7: "If Nemesis existed, should humans escape to outer space? Why or why not? "*
    a. Brainstorming

Homework
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Big Bang, Big Crunch, Big Rip"
    b. "Theory of Everything…string attached."
        i. Read & Understand the content
        ii. Take notes
        iii. Read the texts out loud
2. Writing assignment
    a. Submit Essay7 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening

Day 8: Our Universe

Homework due
1. Reading assignments
    a. "Big Bang, Big Crunch, Big Rip"
    b. "Theory of Everything…string attached."
        i. Understand the content
        ii. Be able to read the text smoothly

Lecture
1. How to read effectively
    a. (Negative) factual info
    b. Sentence Simplification
2. Theoretical Physics
    a. Newton, Einstein, & Hawking
    b. Multiverse and String Theory
3. How to write academic essays
    i. Identifying Logical Flaws
    ii. Paraphrasing technique

In-class writing
1. *Essay 7: "If Nemesis existed, should humans escape to outer space? Why or why not? "*

Homework
1. *Essay 8: "What are the two aspects (or topics) of this course that you enjoyed the most?"*
    a. Submit Essay8 Draft 1 via Email (namiko.suzuki@agos.co.jp) by Saturday evening