

EFSLANG 689V: Vocabulary and Idiom

Summer, 2014

Wednesdays 1:15-3:05pm

Instructor: Kirsten Hilbert

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Materials:

The Big Picture: Idioms as Metaphors. K. King (1999)

Recommended Books:

The Oxford Dictionary of Idioms. (2nd ed.). Edited by J. Searle (2005).

Collins COBUILD Phrasal Verb Dictionary. Edited by J. Sinclair (2002).

Additional materials will be supplied by instructor

Course Description:

Learning to understand and use idioms and metaphors presents a challenge to non-native speakers, but is an important step in achieving native-like fluency. This course helps students begin the process of recognizing and learning idioms, especially those used in academic and social contexts. In addition to understanding idioms, students will have opportunities to experiment with the use of selected idioms in appropriate contexts. The class will analyze idioms and metaphors in order to understand what they reflect about culture. Students will also discuss the history and morphology of words and the ways that English speakers combine words in order to invent new ones. Most importantly, students will follow a plan to find and select new words and phrases for study, leading to weekly quizzes, so that each student can show improvement in learning a set of self-selected vocabulary

Participation and Attendance:

Because this class has very few meetings, attendance at each lesson is extremely important. Attendance of 90% is required to receive a passing grade of "S." You must also be an active participant in class and complete all assignments on time. If you must miss a lesson, please contact me by e-mail as soon as possible.

Special Needs:

Any student who needs special help getting to class, hearing in class, seeing written material, or doing some other task associated with the course should discuss the need with me during the first week of class. Further, the student should obtain professional diagnosis and consultation of the need area by the University's Disability Resource Center.

Grading:

Students can receive two grades "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" depending on completion of all course work to a satisfactory level and participation in classroom

activities. As this course is designed to focus on the areas of English vocabulary most useful for your success in university classrooms and academic/social situations in the US, be sure to make your weekly lists based on your own particular needs and please feel free to talk with me after class about particular topics and skills that you would like to work on this summer.

Class Assignments and Topics:

1. Your Vocabulary List and Quiz

Each week, you will compile a list of 10 new vocabulary words/phrases which you have encountered in your daily life on and around campus. These words must not just be words that you originally look up in a dictionary but must come from your observations and interactions in daily life. Examples include words you've heard in a movie or on T.V., a phrase from a newspaper article, or something you overhear while walking around Stanford. Write down the words, the exact source where you heard/read the word first (include time/location for words that you overhear), as much of the context as you can, and the word's definition. Submit the 10 new words each week (including definition and source location) to me via e-mail (khilbert@stanford.edu). As part of the weekly quiz, I will choose words from your individual vocabulary list to have you define, write as sentences, or possibly even teach to the rest of the class. This will test both your receptive and productive knowledge of the words. Your list will grow each week to include at least 50 words by the end of the summer, and each week I will draw from your entire list not just the new words submitted. In this way, the first part of the vocabulary quiz each week will be different for each student.

No matter where you find the words, they must come from a specific context that you describe for each word. If you cannot find any words or text, I can provide a random newspaper article, from which I will choose words and phrases for the following quiz. The deadline for weekly vocabulary list submission is Monday by midnight to my email address. Late submissions will not be accepted, they will be counted toward the next week's submission and the default list will be used to create the student's quiz that week.

2. Idiom Exercises and Quiz

The second part of the weekly quiz will be based on idioms, vocabulary words, and exercises that I assign each week. Before taking the quiz, we will go over the exercises and you will have opportunities to work with the idioms in pairs/groups. For the second part of the quiz, I will ask questions based on that week's vocabulary list as well as words from any previous week's list that we have studied. You will be quizzed mostly on your receptive knowledge of the idioms (recognition rather than making sentences). Just as your personal list of idioms will grow, keep in mind that as the weeks progress you will be responsible for a cumulative list of words from the class list as well.

3. Weekly Reading Assignments or Activities

Each week, usually in connection with the class vocabulary lists, I will assign an article or activity to read and/or complete. You should complete the activity and/or reading in order to prepare for class discussions. For some activities, you will be required to make small presentations to the whole class or in small groups.

Tentative Weekly Topics: (Subject to Change)

Week	Focus	Topic
1	Knowledge Idioms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to course • techniques for learning new vocabulary • What is an idiom (and why study them?)
2	Idea Idioms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Dictionary Exercises
3	Argument Idioms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 • Websites and other activities for self-learning new vocabulary
4	Life is a journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • Using film and television shows to learn new vocabulary
5	Life is a game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 4 • Academic vocabulary and idioms from various disciplines
6	Business Jargon Sharing and Swapping idioms from individual lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5: Final Exam • Pictionary or Idiom Bingo