



# Modules at the American Language Center Rabat: Spring 2018

Modules at ALC are designed specifically for our advanced and proficiency learners to personalize their studies and build strong English fluency. We accomplish this through carefully planned, learner-centered courses that typically embrace the liberal and creative arts. The successful module student enjoys a progressive learning environment, learner autonomy, projects and presentations, collaborations, and teachers as facilitators.

Only learners who have completed Advanced 4 or who have achieved a score of 56 or higher on our placement test are eligible for ALC Modules. New modules are introduced each term, and popular modules are repeated on a regular basis.

Advanced students who successfully complete two modules are eligible for an advanced certificate; successfully completing an additional three modules qualifies students for a proficiency certificate.

Advanced Etymology and History of English Words (new)	The Media and You (new)
The Four Skills	Academic English 3*
Words and Sound	Life Skills & Leadership
Business English 3*	Gender Studies
Public Speaking	Debate: The Art of Arguing

\* These courses may be taken in any sequence. You do not need to start with Level 1.



Continue onward for a complete  
description of each module.





## The Media and You

### New for Spring 2018

#### Course Description:

The Media and You helps you navigate an increasingly complex media landscape and produce your own print, audio, and visual journalism. Between social media, television, podcasts, vlogs, blogs, newspapers, and magazines, there have never been so many varied sources of information, and it has never been more critical to develop skills to analyze them effectively. You will learn how to critically analyze media by examining biases, comparing and contrasting accounts from different sources, and performing your own fact checking. You will also create your own media and be able to produce news articles (AP style), podcasts, and video reports. Necessary materials will be provided by the instructor and you will be asked to bring material that interests you to class.

**Assessment:** 40% Attendance and Participation, 60% In Class and Homework Assignments (news articles, podcasts, video reports, media criticism papers).

#### About the Instructor:

##### Robert Hitt

Bob was born and raised in a town close to Boston, Massachusetts. He studied biology and journalism in college and was the Assistant News Editor to the largest college daily newspaper in New England, The Massachusetts Daily Collegian. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor's of Science in biology. After college, he began working in the world-renowned Massachusetts General Hospital as a clinical laboratory technician. There he worked with people from all over the globe. He met native Arab speakers and fell in love with the language, so he started to learn it for fun in his free time. After completing his TEFL certification, he chose to come to Morocco to further his Arabic studies and to share in Morocco's rich culture and heritage.



# Advanced Etymology and History of English Words

**New for Spring 2018**

## Course Description:

Exploring the origins of words is a fascinating journey that leads toward mastery and more effective usage in context. In this module, you will be introduced to the history of the English language, looking at mechanisms through which words originate: language change, word loans, affixes (prefixes, infixes and suffixes), word formation, derivation, onomatopoeia, etc. This module is targeted toward students who aspire to foster their oral and written communicative skills by broadening the spectrum of their vocabulary repertoire. Students who are planning to take SAT, TOEFL, IELTS, GRE or other English exams will also find the course very useful.

## Assessment:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| ✓ Attendance and Participation             | 20% |
| ✓ Individual/ Group Projects + Assignments | 30% |
| ✓ Final written exam                       | 50% |

## About the Instructor:

Youssef Sahyoun

After earning a BA degree in English Language and Literature from Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, Youssef pursued his graduate studies at Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra. He has worked as a certified English teacher since 2005. Youssef holds the Professional Certificate in English Language Teaching (PCEL), and is also a recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching from the US Department of State. During his stay in the USA, he studied, taught and conducted research at Indiana University. Youssef has a special interest in English literature, semantics and etymology.



## Words and Sound

### **Course Description:**

In Words & Sound, we will examine how poets and songwriters can look at one concept from many different angles. We will examine concepts such as identity, love, and death. We will be reading poetry, watching slam poets, and listening to some fine music, all while creating our own. Students will be expected to write both creatively and academically. No singing required, only open minds and full pens.

### **Assessment:**

20% attendance and participation; 20% journal; 20% 2 academic essays; 40% final project (students' poetry/song compilation).

### **About the Instructor:**

Ben Friesen has been writing stories since he could hold a pencil, from under a cherry tree in Pakistan, to the frozen northern plains of the US, to humming cafés in the ancient city of Rabat. He cultivated his craft at Minnesota State University Moorhead where he received a Bachelor's of Arts in Writing. His poetry, flash fiction, and articles have appeared in Red Weather and Wolfree magazines. He loves writing by day and teaching by night, biking, tea drinking, and competing in poetry slams and storytelling competitions. New in Morocco, he is finding the country inspirational and fascinating and hopes to be here for years to come.



## Gender Studies

### **Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the meaning of gender in society. The course examines how gender is constructed through our everyday activities and interactions at both the interpersonal and the institutional level. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in Women's and Gender Studies scholarship. Gender scholarship critically analyzes themes of gendered performance and power in a range of social spheres, such as law, culture, education, work, medicine, social policy and the family.

### **Assessment:**

Students' participation/attendance; individual presentation; final exam with an essay component.

### **About the Instructor:**

Naima Benlarabi is from Rabat, Morocco. After she earned a BA in *English Language and Literature* from Mohammed V University, she pursued her post-graduate studies in Canada and did academic trainings in both the US and UK. She has been teaching part-time at the American Language Center Rabat since 1995. She is a full time Professor of English Studies - Department of English - Ibn Tofail University. Besides her teaching activities, Naima is a Research Member in “*The Gender Research Group*” *Research Laboratory for Multidisciplinary Studies* Ibn Tofail Univ. She is interested in Gender/Women studies and has published articles on the topic. She has been supervising many academic research projects on Gender/women studies and has participated in many national & international conferences and events on Gender Issues and Women's Rights.



## Business English Three\*

### Course Description:

Business English Three will help students develop English for the business world. Topics include marketing and customer relationship management, employment trends, how to make an impact in presentations and business ethics, including corporate responsibility. This course will be practical and hands on. Each unit culminates in a case study which will give students the chance to put their business skills to use through real life situations. Students will be active participants in lessons through research and readings, writing assignments, working in groups, role plays, simulations, and presentations. The course uses the Advanced level text: Market Leader, which is a course book specifically designed for Business English.

*\*Note: You do not need to complete the levels of Business English in order; you can begin with any level that interests you.*

**Assessment:** 20% participation, 3 x 20% Case Studies, Final 20%

### About the Instructor:

Philip McNair

Philip is originally from Lisbon, Portugal. His mother is German and his father British, so he was brought up speaking three languages. He moved to Germany to study Media Technology after finishing school in Portugal. During his studies, he started giving private English lessons to teenagers, and enjoyed this so much that he decided to pursue teaching English as a profession when he finished his studies. Before coming to Morocco, he was in Germany teaching Business English, working as an English teacher for companies like 3M, Ingenico Payments, Terex, Innogames and several pharmaceutical companies. Philip taught people from the upper management as well as regular employees and he learnt a lot from getting insights into these different companies and their ways of working.



# Life Skills and Leadership

## **Course Description:**

This course is designed for high-level students and provides learners with leadership, conflict resolution and problem solving skills. Being a strong, confident leader will help you succeed in both your professional and personal life. Participants will develop these skills by facilitating sections of the class and through activities and discussion-based analysis of topics. The syllabus has been adapted exclusively for ALC from the Peace Corps Life Skills and Leadership Manual, with permission.

## **Assessment:**

50% In class participation, 30% Presentations/class facilitations, 20% Reflection Essay.

## **About the Instructors:**

### Yamna Laatiris

Yamna received a Bachelor Degree in Applied Linguistics from Mohamed V University in 1995, a certificate in TEFL Methodology in 2007, and obtained Via Lingua Certification in Marrakesh in June 2012. She has been mentoring novice teachers at the ALC Rabat since 2007. She attended the TESOL conference in New Orleans, in 2011. As a member of the Community Service Program at the ALC Rabat, Yamna worked on different social projects with ALC students benefitting underprivileged areas in Morocco. She is also very keen on projects that aim at empowering women in her country. On a personal level, she is an optimist and believes in change. Her strengths are flexibility, creativity and leadership. Teaching for Yamna is an opportunity to explore those skills to their fullest and share them with her students.







## The Art of Arguing

### Course Description:

This course aims to familiarize students with the different styles and systems of debate and argumentation used around the world. Students will work on developing their public speaking skills in order to craft arguments, refute claims, and to think critically about the world around them. Higher order critical thinking skills (analysis and synthesis of information) will be stressed. Students will learn various aspects of debate and critical thinking, which will then be employed and practiced in classroom debates. Although this class will be predominately speaking-based, students will also hone their reading, writing, and listening skills in the processes of preparing for debates. Students will work frequently in small groups/teams throughout the session. Some individual work will also be used in order to help students to master the art of arguing.

### Assessment:

40% classroom and group participation; 60% in-class assignments (one writing assignment, (10%), one speaking assignment (10%), and 2 in-class debates (20% each). *Please note* that students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

### About the Instructor:

Hamilton Turner was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco for three years, working in the rural countryside as well as cities. During those three years, he worked teaching Moroccans English speech and debate. He has also taught classes in conflict resolution, preparing for job interviews, and even created and lead an American Football team in Tiflet, which now plays regularly against Casablanca and Rabat. He has helped lead High School students in Model United Nation conferences, presenting advanced writing while representing a foreign country, as well as coached debate teams. While at university he specialized in Experimental Psychology, doing research and experiments, and as such he values hard data and information to back up findings. Having been in Morocco for four years now, he has a great appreciation for the culture and history of the country, and a love for its people.



## Four Skills

### Course Description:

This course is for module-level students, especially those entering from the Advanced program, who want or need *additional practice* in the four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course will also include a comprehensive review of English grammar.

Please note: The primary goal of this module is to provide participants with a stronger foundation in English proficiency, thus allowing them to advance through other modules with increased confidence and language skills.

### Assessment:

Student's positive engagement in the learning process (active in-class participation, note-taking, weekly homework assignments) – 20%;

Combined skills assessments (4 x 15% each) = 60%;

Comprehensive Final assessment – 20%.

### About the Instructor:

#### Ben Friesen

Ben Friesen has been writing stories since he could hold a pencil, from under a cherry tree in Pakistan, to the frozen northern plains of the US, to humming cafés in the ancient city of Rabat. He cultivated his craft at Minnesota State University Moorhead where he received a Bachelor's of Arts in Writing. His poetry, flash fiction, and articles have appeared in Red Weather and Wolfree magazines. He loves writing by day and teaching by night, biking, tea drinking, and competing in poetry slams and storytelling competitions. New in Morocco, he is finding the country inspirational and fascinating and hopes to be here for years to come.

## Four Skills

Class time each week will include:

- Practice in one or more of the four specific skills, including but not limited to:
  - Reading exercises (reading comprehension, vocabulary)
  - Writing exercises (essay structure, mechanics such as punctuation and spelling, sentence structure)
  - Speaking exercises (fluency, pronunciation, using English correctly)
  - Listening exercises (listening comprehension, vocabulary)
- Practice (and assessment) in combined skills:
  - Speaking exercises based on reading exercises
  - Speaking exercises based on listening exercises
  - Writing exercises based on reading exercises
  - Writing exercises based on listening exercises
- Grammar review and practice.
  - Specific to the wants and needs of the individual class

All students must take an active role in the learning process – participating in class discussions, taking notes and doing weekly homework assignments. There will be four in-class assessments using combined skills, as well as a comprehensive final assessment using all four skills.



# Public Speaking



## Course Description:

Public speaking is for those who want to improve their speaking fluency and their presentation skills. Students will learn technical skills to improve their public speaking abilities, and will explore various types of public speaking such as formal speeches, reader's theater, debates, and ceremonial speeches. Students will work to overcome their fears, take ownership of the stage, and connect with their audience. Class participation and attendance is a must for this module. Students will be assessed on their class participation, class assignments and presentations, a final reflection essay or journal, and a final presentation.

## Assessment:

20% Overall speaking and listening/class participation/behavior - teacher assessment;  
40% In class assignments-extemporaneous, expository, and impromptu speeches;  
20% At home assignments – persuasive and demonstrative speeches;  
20% Final Presentation.

## About the Instructor:

### Anna Fuchtman

Ms. Fuchtman graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2009 with a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies and a minor in Russian. Upon completion of her degree, she accepted a position at Verdigre Public Schools within the special education department. This job sparked her interest in working with students with special needs and encouraged her to return to school to pursue teaching. In 2012, she earned a Masters in Education from the College of Saint Mary. She worked as a special education teacher in the Westside Community School District before moving to Morocco. It was after her first cup of mint tea on a volunteer trip in 2012, that she decided to move here and hasn't looked back since.