

Esperanto 101: An introduction to the international language

- **Course website:** <http://esperanto.lovestone.org>
- **Mailing list:** send a message to <lists@lovestone.org> with a subject line of: *subscribe ur-eo*
- **Room:** Hylan 1101
- **Time:** Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Fall 2011
- **Instructor:** Hoss Firooznia
 - **Office:** Hylan 911
 - **Email:** hoss.firooznia@rochester.edu

Description and goals

This course is free and non-credit. The goal is to give you a solid foundation in Esperanto that will let you start using the language as soon as possible for things like travel, reading foreign literatures, and making new friends around the world. While language-learning is *always* a time-consuming process, Esperanto is easier to learn than most languages. If you do your homework, by the end of the semester you'll be holding simple conversations, corresponding with your counterparts in universities overseas, listening to world music, and reading books and news articles from all over the globe.

Students completing the course should be ready to continue with independent study or an intermediate level course. One possibility is **NASK**, the *Nord-Amerika Somera Kursaro* (North American Summer Esperanto Institute) an immersive series of courses held each July. The institute attracts students and instructors from around the world. See <<http://esperanto.org/nask>>. So far, students in this course have been awarded five scholarships to study at NASK... will you be the sixth?

Course materials

Most course materials will be distributed (for free) by way of the mailing list—see above.

Make sure you're on the list!

- Textbook, handouts, word lists, and videos, all to be distributed/watched in class and online. (Free.)
- Wells, John C. *English-Esperanto-English Dictionary*. 2010. ISBN 1595691499. Available for \$24 from Amazon: <<http://amazon.com/dp/1595691499>>. (The dictionary is optional, and you won't need it right away. It will be very useful as the course progresses, however.)

Homework

Each week you'll be given a short assignment. The workload will be light, but you should practice **at least 15 minutes each day** in order to retain what you've learned. That's not a lot of work, but you have to keep it up. Don't fall into the trap of trying to cram right before class. You won't learn much that way, and besides, there's no need — remember, you're not being graded! You aren't here to prepare for an exam; you're here to *learn cool stuff*.

You may find it useful to keep an "Esperanto journal" to help build your vocabulary. Each day, try to **read or listen** to some Esperanto and **write down** some of the new words, expressions, and grammatical structures you encounter, along with an explanation in English. Your journal is also a good place to record fleeting questions or anything you find confusing, so that we can discuss it later in class.