

# Esperanto 101: An introduction to the international language

- **Course website:** <https://esperanto.lodestone.org>
- **Mailing list:** <https://groups.io/g/uresperanto>
- **Room:** Hylan Hall 1106A
- **Time:** Monday evenings, 6:15 – 7:30 pm, Spring 2019
- **Instructor:** Hoss Firooznia
  - **Office:** Hylan 911
  - **Email:** [hoss.firooznia@rochester.edu](mailto:hoss.firooznia@rochester.edu)

## Description and goals

The course is free and non-credit. The goal is to give you a solid foundation in Esperanto that will enable you to take advantage of the benefits of this unique language. Although language-learning is *always* a time-consuming process, Esperanto is easier to learn than most. If you study and do your homework, by the end of the semester you should be able to hold basic conversations and read books and news articles with the help of a dictionary. (We'll put that newfound knowledge to use, too — if you like, we'll correspond with students from overseas by semester's end.)

Students completing the course should be ready to continue on their own, or begin other courses at an intermediate level. One such possibility is NASK, the *Nord-Amerika Somera Kursaro* (North American Summer Esperanto Institute) held in July at William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina. NASK is an immersive series of courses that attract students and instructors from around the world. Many of our students have been awarded scholarships for summer study ... will you be next?

## 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 chapters and handouts to be distributed in class and/or online.
- *Concise Esperanto-English Dictionary*. A two-way mini-dictionary covering the words we'll encounter in class. Distributed in class and online.

## Homework

Each week you'll be given a short assignment. The workload will be light, but you should practice at least 15 minutes **every 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 procrastinating all week and then cramming right before class. You won't learn much that way.

Some students find it helpful to keep an "Esperanto journal" when building their vocabulary. Each day, try to **read or listen** to some Esperanto (from whatever source) and then **write down** in your journal some of the new words, expressions, and structures you encounter, along with an explanation in English. The idea is to use a dictionary at least five times each day, thereby learning at least 35 new roots per week. At that rate, you'll have enough vocabulary by the end of the course to understand many thousands of words.