



NEW AMERICAN ENGLISH MOOCS



The U.S. Department of State, in partnership with FHI 360 and the University of Pennsylvania, is producing five new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for English language learners outside of the United States. The MOOCs will help pre-intermediate and intermediate level learners improve their English skills in five major career fields that relate to important U.S. foreign policy goals.

The MOOCs will be available on Coursera.org starting in May 2016. We will conduct two initial instructor-guided sessions for each MOOC in 2016 and 2017, after which they will remain accessible for on-demand use. Course activities will also be gamified, providing a stimulating experience that will help keep learners engaged.

The courses and release dates are:

ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP - May and November 2016

Through this MOOC, budding entrepreneurs will obtain the English skills needed to develop networks and work in an international arena. They will improve their English language skills and abilities to articulate a concept for a new or expanded business or entrepreneurial venture, write business plans and grant applications, conduct market research and create a marketing strategy, and communicate with potential partners, clients and customers.

ENGLISH FOR JOURNALISM - August 2016 and February 2017

This MOOC will highlight through English skills the history and role of objective and accurate journalism in a democratic society and how journalists inform and educate the public about local, national and global issues and events. It will help learners improve their English language skills in the reading, drafting, editing, and proofreading of modern journalism.

ENGLISH FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT - November 2016 and April 2017

Learners will improve their English skills for professional outreach to advance their careers in any field or sector, emphasizing how career and professional development in the “new economy” allow individuals to compete more effectively in the evolving global marketplace. They will hone their language skills while learning to write resumes, cover letters, professional email messages, and social media postings.

ENGLISH FOR MEDIA LITERACY - April and October 2017

Participants will explore examples and practice English skills with different forms of media in order to develop a broader understanding of the role media play in society and how they influence public opinion. Materials and activities will encourage participants to develop and practice English skills tied to critical thinking when reading and evaluating sources of information, including social media, blogs, podcasts, television, film, newspapers, and magazines.

ENGLISH FOR STEM FIELDS - June and October 2017

This MOOC aims to increase access to educational opportunities by strengthening the learner’s literacy skills in the most common English vocabulary, grammatical and rhetorical structures used in the STEM fields. Multi-disciplinary topics will give learners a clear and practical understanding of both the diversity and interconnectedness of all STEM fields.