Harlingen High School South
ELDA I & 2 Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
Meeting Days and Times: Monday-Friday, A/B Days
Classroom Location: Room 2102
Teacher: Mirna Garcia

Course Description

English Language Development and Acquisition (ELDA) is designed to provide instructional opportunities for secondary recent immigrant students with little or no English proficiency. These students have scored at the negligible/very limited academic language level of the state-approved English oral language proficiency tests. This course enables students to become increasingly more proficient in English in all four language domains.The English Language Development and Acquisition (ELDA) course will validate a student's native language and culture as a valuable resource and as a foundation to attain the English language. It will develop social language, survival vocabulary, and the basic building blocks of literacy for newly arrived and preliterate students.

This course is designed as a system of intensive language support for students with limited knowledge of English. Sociolinguistic strategies will be utilized to help students with the acculturation of English as they endeavor to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The key concepts are a focus on academic language and conversational English development, as well as the development of the foundations of the English language through oral and written conventions, grammar, writing, and reading.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have::

- The ability to communicate in social language
- Mastered survival vocabulary
- The basic building blocks of literacy for newly arrived and preliterate students

These objectives align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading, ensuring that students are prepared for both state assessments and future academic challenges.

Required Materials

- **Textbooks:**
  - *Ventures:*
    - *Basic*
    - *Level 1*
    - *Level 2*
- **Supplies:**
  - 1 notebook
  - Pens (blue/black: no neon gel pens) Pencils

- 4 highlighters (yellow, orange, green, blue) These are critical for annotation and group peer reviews.
    - Folder of binder for organizing handouts and notes
    - 1 pack of index cards (3x5)
    - *Students may be asked to purchase poster board, or minimal art supplies throughout the year for special projects.*
- **Technology:**

Students are only allowed to use the Harlingen CISD-provided device.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based on the following components: Minium of 12 grades per quarter. Minium of 2 test grades per quarter.

- **Tests, Essays, and Projects:** 25%
- **Reading Quizzes and Minor Assignments:** 75%
  Weekly Vocabulary Lists, assignments, and quizzes
- **Semester Exams:** 15% of semester grade

Grading Scale:
A: 90-100%
B: 80-89%
C: 70-79%
F: 69% and below

Late Work Policy:

Late work will be accepted up to four school days after the due date with a penalty of 10% off per day. Work submitted more than four days late will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

Assessment Methods

Assessments will include:

- **Quizzes:** Weekly reading quizzes to ensure comprehension.
- **Essays:** Analytical essays on assigned readings, both in-class and as take-home assignments.
- **Exams:** Mid-term and final exams, including multiple-choice and essay components.
- **Projects:** Research-based projects and presentations on literary themes and texts.
- **Participation:** Regular participation in class discussions and activities.

Course Schedule

Quarter 1: Ventures: Book One
Quarter 2: Ventures: Book One
Quarter 3: Ventures: Book Two
Quarter 4: Ventures: Book Two

Classroom Policies

- **AI Policy:**

Students in grades 8th-12th may access AI tools for approved educational purposes under the following conditions:

- **Parental Consent**: Parents/Guardians must provide written consent allowing their child to access generative AI tools for educational use
- **Teacher Permission:** The student must receive prior approval from their teacher outlining the permitted educational task(s) for each use of generative AI.
- **Responsible and Ethical Use:** Students must use generative AI responsibly at all times, adhering to all district technology policies.

Students 14+ may only use AI for approved educational purposes on school devices and district networks. Misuse may lead to loss of access. Harlingen CISD reserves the right to monitor usage, and violations can result in disciplinary action as per Student Code of Conduct.

- **Cold Calls:**

Students will be call on in class to contribute to class discussion. This is to maintain engagement and ensure that all students are paying attention and ready to contribute at any time.

- **Daily Entry Routine:**

Students should enter the classroom, retrieve any handouts, and begin the daily "Do Now" activity posted on the board.

- **End-of-Class Routine:**

Students will be allowed to pack up their materials only when the final 1min of class is announced. No early packing is permitted. **No lining up at the door before the dismissal bell**. Students will remain in their seats until the bell rings.

- **Make-Up Work and Retakes:**

A teacher may assign makeup work to a student who misses class based on instructional objectives and the needs of the student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or meeting subject or course requirements. The student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work within the time specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. The student is encouraged to speak with the teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time so that the teacher and student may plan any makeup work.

Retakes for major assessments will follow district policy: mandatory retest if more than 25% of the class fails. Earned grade will be recorded. There are no individual retests. Semester and quarter exams are excluded from the retest policy.

- **Phone/technology Policy:**

All cell phones must be turned off and placed in the student's back pack. If a student does not have a backpack, they will turn in their phone at the beginning of the day to the library for safe keeping and may retrieve it at the end of the school day. Earbuds, headphones, smart watches, and other internet connected devices that are not HCISD devices, are not allowed. If you have any questions about using your devices,

please refer to the student handbook. This is a district policy implemented in compliance with Texas House Bill 1481.

- **Technology Requirements:**

As part of our commitment to fostering digital citizenship and building real-world responsibility, the English Department at Harlingen High School South requires students to come to class prepared with the proper technology and mindset for learning.

- Students must bring a campus issued device ready for academic use.
- Students may not substitute personal devices (phones, tablets, or laptops) for their school-issued iPad.

Each student will receive one (1) grace pass per quarter for forgetting their HCISD issued device or arriving with it uncharged. On this first occurrence:

- The student will receive a verbal warning and may check out a device from the library, if available.

After the first occurrence:

- Students must check out a temporary device from the library if one is available.

- Time spent retrieving a device will not be credited during class activities or timed assignments.

- After three (3) instances of not bringing their district-issued device, a parent-teacher conference may be requested, and the student may be referred to administration.

Online Platforms:

We will be using Canvas for assignment submissions and announcements.

Why This Matters

Just as professionals are expected to arrive at work with the tools required for the job, students are expected to arrive at class ready to learn. This policy is designed not to punish, but to instill habits of preparedness and accountability that will benefit students in college, careers, and life.

District Policies:

All classroom policies align with the Harlingen CISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

Support and Additional Resources

Tutorials:

Monday - Friday 7:45-8:10 am, or by appointment. *Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of one day in advance.*

Additional Resources:

- **Accuplacer for TSI:** Online resources for TSI preparation.
- **School Library:** Access to supplementary texts and research materials.

- **HCISD Approved Online Tools:** Microsoft Copilot, No Red Ink, Notebook LM, Magic School, Adobe Expres, Curipod, Diffit, Gemini, Khanmigo, Snorkl

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Communication Protocols

Teacher Contact:

I can be reached via email at mirna.garcia@hcisd.org. Please allow one business day for a response.

Parent Meetings:
Parents can schedule a Zoom meeting, phone call, or in-person meeting by emailing me directly. Meetings will be held during my office hours or by appointment.

Behavioral Expectations:

All students are expected to follow the district's Code of Conduct by demonstrating responsibility, respect, and integrity. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and will be addressed in accordance with district policies for student conduct and discipline.

Character Strong Curriculum:

Our classroom will incorporate the principles of Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and Character Strong. Students are expected to demonstrate respect, empathy, and responsibility in all interactions. These values will be integrated into our daily routines and class discussions to create a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Tardy & Absence Policy:

Regular attendance is essential for academic success. Students must be in class on time to avoid being marked tardy. Excessive tardies and absences may lead to loss of credit or disciplinary action as outlined in the district's attendance policy.

Misconduct Policy:

Any form of misconduct—including insubordination, disruption, or failure to follow rules—will be documented and addressed in accordance with HCISD's discipline management techniques, which may include warnings, parent contact, detention, or office referrals.

Classroom Rules:

- **Be Prompt** – Arrive on time and be ready to learn. Pick up any materials required for the day. Begin working on the Do Now- do not wait for the teacher to tell you to get started.
- **Be Prepared** – Bring required materials and completed assignments.
- **Be Respectful**– Treat peers, staff, and the learning environment with respect. and kindness; rude and disruptive comments and behavior will not be tolerated. Please note: the teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.**If students have a concern about assignments or directions (that does not have to do with clarification of instructions), they must discuss these concerns with the teacher respectfully and in private. Failure to do so will result in a referral for "insubordination/disrespect" at a minimum, The referral may also include, but will not be limited to "confrontation/aggressive behavior" and "disruptive behavior".**
- **Be Brilliant** – Engage fully and strive for excellence every day.

I have read and understand the rules and expectations of the class. By turning in this page of the syllabus, students will receive a daily grade. This page will be kept on file by the teacher throughout the school year.

This syllabus can be found on the student's Canvas page throughout the school year and on my district website page.

Student Name (printed)_____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Date_____

If you would like to provide a phone number or email address, you may use the space below. Thank you.