I. Description of Course:
   1. Department/Course: ESL - 122
   2. Title: News and Current Events for ESL Students
   3. Cross Reference:
   4. Units: 2
      Lec Hrs: 2
      Lab Hrs:
   5. Repeatability: Yes Times: 3
   6. Grade Options: Letter Grade, May Petition Credit/No Credit (GC)
   7. Degree/Applicability: Credit, Not Degree Applicable (C)
   8. General Education:
   9. Field Trips: Not Required
   10. Requisites: Prerequisite
       To enroll, students must place into ESL 181 or higher on the ESL Assessment Test.

12. Catalog Description:
    Read and discuss news stories and current events. Simplified and standard newspapers will be used. Some writing will be required.

13. Class Schedule Description:
    Read, discuss, and write about current issues in the news.

14. Counselor Information:
    This course is open to all ESL students who place into ESL 181 or above on the ESL Assessment Test.

II. Student Learning Outcomes
The student will:
   1. Write simple summaries of news stories.
   2. Develop an ability to express his/her opinion (orally and in writing) about current issues in the news.
   3. Compose original sentences in new contexts using vocabulary first learned in news stories studied in class.
   4. Distinguish between different types of news stories and their purposes.

III. Course Outline:
Because most of the content of this course will be based on the events in the news during the weeks and months when the course is offered, a complete outline of the material to be studied is impossible to produce in advance. However, following is a list of skills to be taught and/or practiced.

A. Introduction to News and Current Events in English
   1. simplified vs. other news sources
   2. standard parts/sections of a newspaper
   3. layout and structure of news stories on the internet
   4. news on TV and radio
5. standard news sources vs. tabloids, blogs, etc.
6. personalized/selected news for your homepage/email/website

B. Preliminary news reading skills
   1. skimming (headlines, first paragraphs, etc.)
   2. previewing (to find different types of news or sections of a newspaper)
   3. scanning (for specific information)
   4. distinguishing essential from non-essential vocabulary
   5. guessing vocabulary from context

C. Reading comprehension development
   1. reading for and paraphrasing the main idea
   2. identifying supporting details
   3. analyzing sentence structures
   4. recognizing transitions
   5. distinguishing fact from opinion
   6. noticing tone
   7. analyzing logic

D. Studying new vocabulary
   1. learning related word forms
   2. learning common collocations
   3. learning multiple definitions and contexts for use
   4. constructing original sentences using new vocabulary in new contexts

E. Writing
   1. paraphrases
   2. summaries
   3. responses / opinion statements
   4. letters to an editor

F. Aids for discussion of and writing on news & current events
   1. common patterns for expressing . . .
      a. opinions
      b. agreement
      c. opposing ideas
      d. questions
      e. lack of interest
      f. great interest
   2. awareness and handling of "sensitive" topics
      a. cultural differences
      b. individual differences

IV. Course Assignments:

   A. Reading Assignments
      1. Read simplified news stories (News for You, Easy English Times)
      2. Read standard news articles (local papers or major websites)

   B. Projects, Activities, and other Assignments
      1. Read leading news stories together (various initial approaches: teacher reading aloud and students listening; students reading silently at their own pace; students taking turns reading aloud, getting help from the teacher to pronounce new words)
      2. Introduce useful skills/strategies for improving comprehension
Discuss new/difficult vocabulary
4. Interpret news headlines
5. Watch/listen to a taped segment of news related to a story studied
6. Read a news article aloud, working on pronunciation & vocabulary.
7. Find, compare, and show justification for answers to comprehension questions about reading
8. Discuss personal opinions about issues studied in the news
9. Do vocabulary-based crossword puzzles or other games
10. Give short oral presentations about stories studied.
11. Have a debate about a controversial issue in the news.
12. Do research to learn more about a story in the news.
13. Watch and discuss news broadcasts taped from TV.

C. Writing Assignments
   1. Summarize news articles.
   2. Paraphrase portions of news articles.
   3. Write response/opinion papers based on articles studied.
   4. Write sentences using new vocabulary from news articles.
   5. Write and submit letters to an editor (especially for submission to Easy English Times or News For You).

V. Methods of Evaluation/Assessment:
   A. Vocabulary quizzes
   B. Reading comprehension quizzes (multiple choice, fill-in, or short answer)
   C. In-class writing (summaries and responses to news articles)
   D. Homework (sentences for new vocabulary, summaries, responses to news articles)
   E. Participation in class and small group discussions

VI. Methods of Instruction:
   A. Discussion
   B. Audiovisual
   C. Self-Paced
   D. Collaborative Learning
   E. Lecture

VII. Textbooks:
   Required
   2. Students can subscribe individually or a class set of papers can be mailed to the teacher and distributed to the students. If the latter is done, a one-time payment can be made at the college bookstore. (Note: this has been done already in other ESL classes).
   3. Other sources of news can be used as well, but this is a good source that should be usable by all levels of ESL students, with more or less difficulty, of course, according to the students' proficiency level.

Optional

VIII. Supplies:
   A. None