**COURSE OUTLINE**

This course aims at greater language mastery through further development of study and learning skills in the following areas:

**1. READING SKILLS**

Further exercise reading comprehension techniques (with more cognitively and linguistically demanding texts)

Understand text organisation and subtext

Recognise text type – style, lexis, register (e.g. online talks and debates, newspaper articles, opinion articles on topical social issues),

**2. VOCABULARY ACQUISITION**

Make wise and effective choice of vocabulary

Choose from among alternatives

Understand word associations

Use collocations and lexical chunks (standardized/fixed expressions)

**3. WRITING SKILLS**

Write with clarity, control and sophistication (cohesion, coherence, smooth flow)

Summarise

Use different kinds of arguments by providing supportive evidence

Develop ideas (define and classify; compare and contrast; support and refute point of view)

Write essays – introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion (analytical, critical and argumentative speech)

Edit for gender bias, opinion bias, repetition, spelling, syntactic errors, etc.

**4. GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX**

Focus on areas which cause difficulty even among the most advanced learners, such as:

tense and aspect, modality, word order, adverb placement, articles and prepositions

linking devices for persuasive and argumentative writing

infinitives, gerunds and participles

phrases, clauses and sentence structure and synthesis

**5. REFERENCE SKILLS**

Introduce ways to cite, quote, paraphrase

Evaluate and use primary sources – books, articles, statistics, graphics, encyclopedias, the Internet, etc.

**6. SPEAKING SKILLS**

Improve pronunciation and fluency

Support opinions and ideas on controversial issues

Challenge other people’s opinions; persuade others

Negotiate, agree/disagree or compromise