

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**ESOLLANG 689T-2 – Interacting in California’s Vineyard Culture****Stanford University****Wednesdays, 17:30 – 19:30****Building TBD, Room TBD****Summer 2026**

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Description

Welcome to ESOLLANG 689T! This course will consist of six meetings, the objective of which is to enable you to enhance your communication skills while exploring an important aspect of California culture: learning and talking about, and, of course, tasting California wines.

Each meeting will consist of two parts: an interactive lecture on the history and the characteristics of a major wine producing region and the tasting of four to six wines. We will also learn what foods pair well with those wines and sample a few selected pairings.

Throughout the course, you will be introduced to vocabulary and expressions relevant to discussing and tasting wine and cultural norms about wine tasting. Finally, you will have ample opportunity to discuss your opinions of the featured wines and compare notes with your classmates.

Requirements

Attendance: You must attend every class meeting and arrive prepared and ready to participate. Tardiness in excess of 10 minutes constitutes an absence. Because the majority of learning takes place in class, it is essential that you participate in class and prepare thoroughly at home.

You must bring your wine bag (glasses and towel) with you to class every day. Be sure the glasses have been washed and dried and are ready for tasting. You must also bring your own water after the first day.

Assignments: Assignments will vary based on the skills and needs of the class, but will likely include: practicing verbal strategies, small and large group discussions, and collaborative work with new material.

Plan to participate actively and enthusiastically. You will also report on wines you have tried outside of class as well as any wineries that you have visited. Finally, there will be an in-class final review activity.

Homework: In order to prepare for in-class activities and assessments, you may be required to read short texts as preparation for the discussion, prepare research for group work, and practice the skills we learn and implement in class. You may also be asked to practice what we have learned in class on your own or with other English speakers.

Statement on Academic Integrity and Outside Assistance

All students are expected to read and uphold the Stanford Honor Code with regard to language course classwork, activities, and assignments. Academic integrity is at the heart of language acquisition; only you are responsible for your own learning and can demonstrate what you can do. Unless specified otherwise, the expectation is that all work is your own without the use of any collaborative tools.

To ensure that you understand how the Honor Code applies to language courses, please carefully review the information below.

Permitted

- For collaborative or group work, your instructor will issue guidelines on what is appropriate. Your instructor may also ask you to declare the amount and type of assistance you have received on any written or oral assignment.
- It is always helpful to have another person listen to you practice your oral presentations and provide feedback on your manner of expression. For this reason, assistance in the preparation of oral assignments is encouraged.
- While preparing for oral interviews it is always helpful to practice conversation with native speakers or someone more knowledgeable as a way to increase your comfort level.
- Digital language tools may be helpful if used judiciously and only with the guidance of your instructor.

Unpermitted

- Under no circumstances is another person, tool, or service to generate an essay for you or to contribute to the ideas or substantive expression of individual assignments.
- Plagiarism (i.e., unattributed, direct copying of text and/or ideas from a source other than yourself) is not allowable. In language courses, this includes translations of source material into the target language.
- The use of translation services and apps during language exams, including but not limited to tools such as Google Translate, is not allowable. This is considered to be unpermitted aid and a hindrance to student learning.
- Divulging the content of an oral interview and assessments to others is not permitted, as this violates Stanford's Honor Code.

Statement on Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty. Students should contact the OAE as soon as

possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk; phone: 650-723-1066; To get started, or to re-initiate services, please visit oea.stanford.edu.

Statement on Inclusivity

All language courses at Stanford are inclusive. Everybody has a name and a pronoun. Instructors are committed to referring to students with the correct pronoun. Please feel free to correct the instructor if there is an error.

Accommodation in Stressful Times

Language instructors care deeply about your well-being. Small classes mean individual support in your language learning. Please speak with your instructor if you are having any academic or personal difficulties. It is very important that we stay connected, especially during troubled times. We can be flexible about assignment and project completion dates. However, we want you to continue to attend class. We are a community and we need to support one another.

Academic Continuity

Stanford as an institution is committed to the highest quality education, and as your teaching team, our first priority is to uphold your educational experience. To that end we are committed to following the syllabus as written here, including through short or long-term disruptions, such as public health emergencies, natural disasters, or protests and demonstrations. However, there may be extenuating circumstances that necessitate some changes. Should adjustments be necessary we will communicate clearly and promptly to ensure you understand the expectations and are positioned for successful learning.

Language Center Attendance and Make Up Guidelines

Stanford Language Center Course Attendance Guidelines

In accordance with University standards, students should plan to attend all class sessions of their language courses and review the respective syllabus for specific details. Language courses are governed by the Language Center guidelines on attendance and make-ups as below, consistent with the Language Center mission.

Stanford language classes are taught in the target language. Class attendance and participation are essential to acquiring active language skills through in-person practice of conversation, reading, writing, and listening in real time. Attendance is essential to develop the skills to interact in the language. For this reason, students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class meetings.

Learning begins in the first week of classes. Shopping is not permitted and students will not be permitted to join a class after missing the first full week of instruction.

Given the importance of attendance and participation to student learning, the below policies and expectations have been adopted for all language courses. If a student expects regular or extensive absences for any reason, the Language Center recommends taking a language class during a different quarter.

Absence and Make-Up Policy

- Because this class relies on in-class participation that cannot be replicated outside of class, there is no make-up possible. If a student misses a class, they have missed a class; the notes will be available, but wine tasting will only be possible if the student themselves purchases the wines on their own and tastes them alone.
- Because the class only meets six times, even one absence means that a student will miss a significant portion of the course. Under no circumstances may a student miss more than one class meeting and earn a passing grade. On-time attendance is crucial.

Students with OAE disability-related academic accommodations that may require absences for medical reasons should consult with the program coordinator for that language prior to enrolling in a language course.

Student Health Notice

While we hope that your time here at Stanford is wonderful and rewarding, university life can be very demanding, especially if your studies involve relocating to this area (even temporarily). Your health (physical and mental) is the top priority, so we encourage you to seek care and assistance if you ever feel unwell while you are a student here. Although a class cannot be made up if you do not attend it, we will try our best to assist you if you have been absent due to illness. Two important services available at Stanford include the Vaden Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which are available to all students enrolled in the Stanford health plan. For information on services and appointments, visit:

<https://vaden.stanford.edu>.

Week	Tentative Lecture Topics	Tentative Featured Varietals
1	Wine production and barrel fermentation	Overview and Merlot
2	Introduction to grape varietals	Chardonnay
3	Deciphering wine labels	Pinot Noir
4	Organic, sustainable, and biodynamic vineyards	Sauvignon Blanc
5	Bottle closures and the cork industry; old vs. ancient vines	Zinfandel
6	Restaurant food and wine menus; talking to the sommelier	Cabernet Sauvignon and sparkling