UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2021

Intensive English Language Institute

Conversational English (IELI 1000)

Instructor: Zachary Brown

Course Information

Class Days and Times: MWF: 2:30-3:20

Email: zachary.brown@usu.edu

Location: Old Main 343

Office Hours: By appointment

Course website: Canvas

Important Dates

First Day of Class Wednesday September 1

Last Day of Class Friday December 17

Course Description

This multilevel course is designed to improve oral communication, primarily through group work and conversation. The main emphasis will be on speaking and listening in common situations found at and around American universities. Topics will include a variety of subjects such as hobbies, daily routine, sports, family, current events, culture, history, art, festivals and holidays, food, etc.
**Course Goals**

- Improve students’ English speaking and comprehension in both formal and informal cross-cultural interactions with native English speakers;
- Strengthen students’ confidence in oral communication, especially with native English speakers;
- Develop students’ conversational and cultural competence so they can more effectively and comfortably participate in local American society and form friendships with native speakers.

**Course Objectives**

- Students can make small talk with a stranger for about the duration of an elevator ride or bus stop wait using small talk consistent with Utah norms;
- Students can prepare and perform a role play with a partner in which they replicate a home visit with new local friends; students demonstrate confident eye contact and body language, audible volume, and active question-asking;
- Students can listen to videos of standup comedy or sitcom clips and identify various used humor strategies from a list;
- At the beginning of the semester, students define their personal goals for speaking skills according to individual plans for language use (such as travel, business, or education);
- Students can compare differences in their home culture’s norms to Utah conventions; they can then prepare a family member or friend for a future visit by explaining those differences in a video or phone call conversation;
Students visit the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art as a class and identify their favorite art piece, then search for basic information about the work and its creation; in class, they then present the work of art to their peers along with their personal reaction and a connection to their home culture;

**Materials**

I will provide you with the materials for this class, but you always need to have a notepad and a pen/pencil with you.

**Health Safety**

In accordance with directions from USU leadership, I ask that students wear masks in the classroom, and I will do the same. However, instructors cannot require masks, so if you choose not to wear a mask, there will be no penalty. Also, I encourage you to get vaccinated and register your vaccination documents at [aggiehealth.usu.edu](http://aggiehealth.usu.edu).

If you feel sick at all, please stay home until you recover.

**Evaluation**

This is an audit course; it will not be graded. I will regularly assess and communicate your progress informally, and I will plan classes to suit your collective and individual needs and interests as much as possible.
Attendance

The success of this course depends upon the commitment of each student. Thus, for the course to work properly, regular attendance is expected and essential. As a courtesy so that I can plan accordingly, if you must miss a class, please speak to me or email me at least a day before your anticipated absence if possible.

Technology

Please absolutely NO using cell phones, computers, or other devices EXCEPT if required for an activity! Doing so undermines participation, which is the primary focus of our classes. I will let you know in advance if you need to use your device for class activities. Just like in a traditional classroom environment, using cell phones/texting in class is disrespectful to your classmates and to the instructor. Cell phones should be turned off and put out of your sight until class is over. If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know.

Course Calendar

The classwork schedule is fluid and will be adjusted and updated according to class needs as the semester progresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Classwork</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Aug 30-Sep 3</td>
<td>Introductions, Topic Suggestions</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>Labor Day (no class)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sep 7-10</td>
<td>Understanding Native Speakers, Local Accents</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Sep 13-17</td>
<td>Goal Setting, Local Accents cont.</td>
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Week 4  Sep 20-24  Sculpture Walk, discussion & presentation
Week 5  Sep 27-Oct 1  Small Talk (starting, maintaining & ending)
Week 6  Oct 4-8  Visiting Americans’ Homes
Week 7  Oct 11-13  Culture Comparisons (weddings, dances, greetings, beauty)
          Oct 15  Fall Break (no class)
Week 8  Oct 18-22  Mid-semester review, evaluations
Week 9  Oct 25-29  Holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
Week 10  Nov 1-5  Popular Local Sayings & Slang
Week 11  Nov 8-12  Understanding American Humor
Week 12  Nov 15-19  Meaningful Foods
Week 13  Nov 22  NEHMA exploration, discussion & presentation
          Nov 24-26  Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)
Week 14  Nov 29-Dec 3  TBD
Week 15  Dec 6-10  TBD
Week 16  Dec 13-17  End-of-semester review, Wrap up

**University Policies**

*Grievance Process (Student Code).* Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking – which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf (Article VII. Grievances, pages 25-30).
**Sexual Harassment.** Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.” If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

**Students with Disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act states: “Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.”