Spring 2019

ENG 507-002: Advanced Conversation and American Culture

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ADVANCED CONVERSATION AND AMERICAN CULTURE

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WELCOME TO ENG 507!

Required Textbook: (Available at the NJIT bookstore in the campus center)

And:
LearnEnglishFeelGood.com
https://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/americanidioms/

At these two sites, students will learn lots of idioms (both American and British). In addition, there are other components of these sites that students can explore. There are even online grammar quizzes along with listening comprehension exercises and pronunciation tests. Answers are provided online, too. Students can use these features at their own pace. (We will explore the meanings of some of the idioms as we move along in class). Plan to read and review these sites to assist you with your grasp of English.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: ENG 507 is a course aimed at assisting international students in their pursuit of the English language. It will also enable them to expand their visions of the diverse cultural environment here in the USA. Idioms and formal vs. informal ways of speaking will be presented. Students will have conversation practice on various subjects. This class is about talking and creating lively conversation as your knowledge of English moves along.

In addition, there will be several tours (guided journeys conducted by the instructor) in order to familiarize students with their environs. There will be visits to Newark’s cultural landmarks, and their cultural significance will be explained.

Also, just across the river, we have the city of New York which has a rich history and many cultural venues within easy reach. Our trips will provide some insights into the great diversity of this region of the world. Please note: the actual dates of these trips will depend upon the weather. The syllabus may indicate one thing, but we may have to change our plans because of weather conditions. In any event, students will always have advanced notice of these special events when we will venture outside of the classroom.

I will EMAIL you of any updates on trip-related OR course-connected information. So please CHECK EMAIL!
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION are MANDATORY in ENG 507. Please help me to keep attendance standards by following this directive. Any student who cannot attend class regularly, for whatever his or her reason, would be wise to WITHDRAW before the withdrawal deadline since no credit can be given to those who do NOT attend and participate in ENG 507. Commitments to other classes or projects are understandable, but these are NOT reasons to pass a course. They are reasons to WITHDRAW from one. Of course, the instructor can understand if students need to miss a class due to health issues or a special commitment involving a trip, conference, or a special event. The idea, however, is to be present in ENG 507! Students are also expected to be ON TIME for class. Progress can be made and self confidence will grow with time, patience, practice and support from classmates and the instructor. ENG 507 requires active student participation. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR FOLLOWING THIS DIRECTIVE!

Here is a basic course calendar. It is a flexible one. Assignments may be added or deleted at the instructor's discretion. (Once again, trips might change the syllabus if there is an issue with weather that is not suitable for walking outside). I will always let you know in advance if a trip is definitely in place or if it needs to be rescheduled for any particular reason.

**Course Calendar**

Please Note: ONCE AGAIN...these assignments may change, depending upon class progress, the over-all level of English in our class, and the weather! (in regard to class journeys)

Week 1 - Let's talk! Introduction to the course. Student introductions, ice breakers, conversation practice, and interview questions to challenge each student.

Homework assignment for Week 2: Chapter 1 in the textbook (Introduction to Culture) and online assignments covering some useful idioms. READ these over and be sure to become familiar with their meanings. Practice is the vital key! Learning to use idioms can be a fun process. Expression/words can have several meanings. Therefore, plan to be open-minded in your pursuit of the dimensions of the English language.

There is ALWAYS an assignment in ENG 507, so be sure to find intrigue in your study of the textbook and the idioms!

Week 2. (Textbook Chap 1 discussion of ideas). Real-life situations and every-day encounters discussed. Speaker's challenge exercise. Conversation practice. Homework: Chapter 2 in the textbook (Meeting and Getting to Know People) along with further study of idioms.

Week 3- Review of Chapter 2 in the textbook and using idioms from the websites' idiom lists. Adjusting to city life. What do we need to know to fit into the neighborhood? Being streetwise and confident. Keeping a low profile, etc.


Week 4 Discussion of American culture in view of Chapters 3 & 4. Ways of life, music, movies, cultural events, holidays.
Homework: Continue to read over the many idioms available on the websites. Read over Chapters 5 & 6 in the textbook.

Week 5 - Trip to the Newark Museum. Students will be asked to select a particular art work to talk about during the next class. (Presentation details will be discussed in class) Homework: Students will prepare a presentation about a work of art from the Newark Museum—sharing their thoughts and impressions of the piece they have selected.

Week 6- Student Presentations on a particular painting or sculpture from the Newark Museum. Students will be asked to describe it and explain the reason for their selection among the many art works on view. This should be an interesting experience in regard to both the selection and the listening experience of hearing each student’s presentation. Main ideas of Chapters 5 & 6 are reviewed.

Week 7 – Student Presentations Idioms review. How to make the most out of our proximity to New York City. Conversation practice. Quiz on idioms and textbook readings. HOMEWORK: Review more idioms.

Week 9- Semester Break! Have a good one!

Week 10 – Dining out! A look at an American menu. Then….. a visit to a Newark café where students will order a lunch and will interact with the waitresses or waiters who are there to serve them.

Week 11- Idioms review. American music over the decades. Listening task related to music.

Week 12 Walking Tour of Newark (visits to various cultural venues)

Week 13 – Trip to New York City (might be on a weekend- depending upon student schedules and what they decide in relation to the possible dates.)

NOTE: Because of the trip (which lasts about 7 hours), ONE CLASS SESSION will be omitted to make up for the time students have put into the NYC trip Therefore—
NO CLASS DURING WEEK 14 IF there has been a trip to NYC some time during week 13.

Week 15- Written test on idioms and your American cultural experience. Final (impromptu) presentations. Let’s talk!

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE SEMESTER!

ONE LAST NOTE: Please Do NOT USE TECH DEVICES in class UNLESS you are taking notes or looking up words, expressions, etc. Use them for ACADEMIC PURPOSES ONLY. DO NOT use them for sending messages or making phone calls, etc. All three hour classes get a break, and you can use the break to check or answer messages… or to simply relax and get a cup of coffee or to drink water, etc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.