

Fall 2019

ENG 507-001: Advanced Conversation and American Culture

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**L. CASTRONOVA - ENGLISH 507- ADVANCED CONVERSATION AND AMERICAN CULTURE
FALL, 2019 INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE: 414 Cullimore OFFICE PHONE: (973)596-6484
Office Hours: By Appointment: Monday, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
 Regular Hours: Tuesday, 2:00- 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 a.m.,
 Thursday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

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COURSE OUTLINE

WELCOME TO ENGLISH 507!

COURSE MATERIALS:

**Required Text: (Available at the NJIT bookstore in our campus center)
Genzel, Rhona, B. CULTURALLY SPEAKING. Third Edition. Boston, Massachusetts. Heinle
Cengage Learning, 2010. ISBN: 13: 978-1-4240 0404 – 1
AND.....**

**a useful online website: LearnEnglishFeelGood.com At this site, students are responsible
for the American Idioms section and the Online English Grammar Quizzes. There are also 20
Listening Comprehension- Spoken English pronunciation practice tests. Answers are provided
online. In addition to these focal points, students are encouraged to explore all of the
components of this useful site.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION: English 507, (Advanced Conversation and American Culture), is a
course designed to assist international students in their pursuit of language and cultural
environment. There will be a review of formal and informal English. Idioms will be
presented, and students will practice using them in day-to-day conversations.**

**In terms of familiarity with American culture, there will be several area tours conducted by
the instructor. These journeys will aim to familiarize students with the local community and,
also, with New York City. These cultural experiences will provide a window of understanding
in regard to the diversity of American culture. It is my mission to make all class trips an
enjoyable cultural experience for ENG 507 students.**

**ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: In order to see progress and build self confidence in
speaking, students are expected to attend all class meetings. This course requires student
participation. Therefore, in order to rise to the speaking challenge and discuss various topics,
students should be present, punctual, and prepared.**

ENG 507 GRADES fall into the following categories: S= Satisfactory
U= Unsatisfactory
I= Incomplete (rarely given)

COURSE CALENDAR

Please Note: These assignments are flexible ones, based on the progress of the class. Just as it is true in the case of real life, nothing is written in stone, and sometimes changes are a wise and necessary choice..

Week 1- NJIT classes begin on Tuesday, September 3rd. Our first English 507 meeting will be on WED, September 4th, at 11:30 a.m.. in Cullimore 411. For our first session:

Course introduction. Student introductions. Conversation practice. The instructor will interview all students in order to: 1) hear their English language skills, 2) hear their expression of various ideas, and 3) determine the over-all level of English language comprehension in our class. Also, there will be an introduction to practical expressions and idioms for every-day life in the USA. Textbook assignment for Week 2 – READ CHAPTER 1 in the textbook. The chapter is entitled INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE. Also, students need to complete an online assignment at LearnEnglishFeelGood.com in American Idioms A, B, C, and D.

Week 2- Student response and discussion of Chapter 1. Review of assigned idioms. Observations shared on American culture and its diversity. Textbook assignment: move onto Chapter 2: MEETING AND GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE. Online assignment: American idioms: E and F.

Week 3- Student response to Chapter 2. Other discussion topics: what, if anything, is “typically” American? Considering the pitfalls of stereotyping. American holidays and traditions. The art of listening well. Idioms. A song in English - for pronunciation practice, cultural connection, and fine-tuning our listening skills. Textbook assignment: Read Chapter 3, PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL EVENTS. Online assignment: American Idioms G, H, and I.

Week 4- Response to Chapter 3- from the text to real life---grasping the ideas we can use in our every-day lives in the USA. The introvert -vs- the

extrovert. Conversational challenge – creating speaking situations. Textbook assignment – Chapter 4 - DATING. Online assignment: American idioms J and K. Ideas on ordering lunch during our Newark tour and the American menu will be discussed.

Week 5 - A walk around the city of Newark. The instructor will conduct a walking tour around the city, visiting several landmark structures. Students are requested to wear comfortable shoes. Also, they should leave laptops elsewhere so that they will be free to enjoy this cultural walk. As your instructor, I will be happy to lock up backpacks and/or valuables of any kind in my office. (Students will need to visit my office (414 Cullimore) beforehand.

PLEASE NOTE: The tour date also depends upon the weather. If it is raining (or rain is expected) on the day of the tour, then the tour will be rescheduled. (Look for an email from the instructor on that morning to see if the tour is cancelled. No email? Then the tour will go on as scheduled). As long as the tour DOES go on as planned, students will be expected to share their thoughts, ideas, impressions, reactions, etc. in a presentation about the city of Newark during the following class. (Week 6). In addition to this presentation, students should read Chapter 6 on SHOPPING. (Chapter 5 will be omitted in class, but, of course, students are encouraged to read it on their own time).

WEEK 6 - Student presentations based on the week 6 tour will be given. More idioms. Written quiz. Review of chapters 4 and 6. Textbook assignment: Chapter 7 – FOOD AND EATING OUT. Online assignment: American idioms L and M.

WEEK 7 - The American Food and Dining Experience. Explaining a menu. Traveling around New York City. Textbook assignment: Chapter 8 – GO TO THE DOCTOR OR DENTIST. Online assignment: American idioms: N, O, and P.

Week 8 - Special weekend schedule INSTEAD of a weekday class. Depending on the schedules of all class members, hopefully we can arrive at a weekend day and time when the instructor can take students into New York City. (Of course, I would like to take the class to NYC on the actual class day, (Wednesday), for the entire day, but the actual day is yet to be determined. A week day brings a different energy to the city when compared to the weekend. In any case, we will firm up the exact day, time and meeting place during Week 7. Surely there will be ONE day that will work out in regard to class needs and this planned walking tour of NYC. Please NOTE: The tour of New York City requires MORE than the

three-hour time slot, so a time adjustment will be made in accordance with the time students spend on the tour. (Details will be given in class). In most cases, students have opted for the class AFTER the NYC trip to be cancelled because they have put time into the tour.) In this case, it would mean that during Week 9, we would not have class IF we had an extended New York City tour on the previous weekend.

WEEK 9- Depends on the date of the New York Tour

Week 10- Feedback on the New York journey. Idioms. Response to Chapter 8. Guest speaker will visit the class, and students will interact with this visitor. Creating theatre. Students will be placed into groups and will be asked to act out a particular situation, using appropriate idioms to color their presentations. Grades will be assigned for accuracy and creativity in regard to these projects. Textbook assignment: Chapter 10-VALUES and THE AMERICAN DREAM. Online assignment: American idioms: Q, R, and S.

Week 11–12 Response to chapter on VALUES and THE AMERICAN DREAM. Preparing a speech. Coloring the speech. What idioms, what expressions will highlight ideas? The instructor will cover the basics of giving a presentation. Students will begin writing a draft of the speech on the subject of values and the American dream. (What were their impressions of America in relation to the topic? After having been here for a while, how do these previously-conceived ideas compare to what has actually been experienced or seen in American culture? Observations and impressions will be shared in the form of a written speech. (Further details on the assignment will be given in class.) Instructor will assist each student with the writing of his or her speech.

Week 13- Holiday Week. We have a regular class on Monday afternoon. There will be a holiday-related film with lots of idioms to challenge the listener. (I will email all students a list of idioms and expressions used in the film BEFORE we watch it together. After the film, we will interact in regard to the experience the film provides. (Students can voice their opinions. Good film? Bad one? Etc.

FYI': Monday, Nov. 25th follows a regular Monday Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 26th follows a Thursday schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 27th follows a Friday schedule

Thursday, Nov. 28th Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

Friday, Nov. 29th no classes (Black Friday.....a huge shopping day in America!)

Week 14- Student speech presentations. What have students observed and experienced? Greed? Poverty? Generosity? Abundance? Abundant waste, etc. Do these observations apply exclusively to the USA---or are they common around the world....etc. Presentations will be graded, and the instructor will provide each student with a feedback sheet on his or her presentation. Homework assignment: American idioms: T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z.

Week 15: Written test. (Part A) (on idioms and language accuracy. Part B- Speaker's challenge.

FYI-----The last day of regular NJIT classes is on Wednesday, Dec. 11th. Dec. 12th and 13th are reading days (a time to prepare for exams, finish projects, etc.) Saturday, December 14th is the first day of **FINAL EXAMS**. There is **NO** final exam in ENG 507 during the regular exam time.

Have an enjoyable semester!