

Bergen Community College
Division of Arts, Humanities, and Wellness
Department of ESL Speech

Departmental Policy Syllabus
SPE 010-001: Idioms, Conversation and American Culture

Semester and year:
Course and Section Number:
Meeting Times and Locations:

Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
Departmental Secretary:
Office Hours:
E-mail Address:

Course Description

This course aims to develop cultural awareness and improve conversation skills in high intermediate and advanced English language learners through the understanding of idioms. In this course, students will recognize and produce the high-frequency idioms and expressions needed in a range of conversational and academic situations. Students will increase their ability to understand conversations through structured and communicative activities. This one-credit elective provides training for students who want to build their idiomatic vocabulary and cultural fluency for communicative success in a variety of situations.

2 Lab hours, 1 credit (non-degree)

Co- or Pre-requisite: SPE-002 or Accuplacer placement in SPE-002 or higher

Text and Materials:

All Clear 3 Listening and Speaking (2nd edition)

Helen Kalkstein Fragiadakis, Heinle Cengage Learning

ISBN: 13-978-1-4130-1705-2

This book is available to purchase in the BCC Bookstore. It is also in the library to borrow and is on reserve to read in the library.

Student Learning Objectives:

As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will:

- Recognize high-frequency idioms and expressions
- Accurately produce high-frequency idioms and expressions
- Improve listening comprehension skills
- Expand passive and active vocabulary
- Increase knowledge and understanding of American culture
- Enhance conversation skills

Course Content:

- Focused listening comprehension exercises
- Inductive and deductive activities for comprehension of target idioms
- Dialogues and small group discussion encouraging production of target expressions
- Pronunciation practice of new expressions
- Individual and group presentations

Means of Assessment:

The major assessment types used in this course are tests, graded discussions, homework assignments, presentations, and class participation. This includes active involvement in class discussions and being prepared for class by completing homework assignments by their due date.

Grading Policy:

Class Participation	20%
Group Presentations	20%
Homework	20%
Quizzes & Tests	20%
Individual Presentations	20%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B+	86-89
B	80-85
C+	76-79
C	70-75
D	65-69
F	64 or below

Attendance Policy:

BCC Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

American Language Program Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Attendance will be taken at each class session. It is expected that class time will be spent so that students benefit from the lectures, class discussions and class work. **If students occasionally arrive late, they should be encouraged to enter quietly, not disturbing the class. If students miss class, they should find out what they missed.** It is probably a good idea for students to exchange telephone numbers with other students as a way to find out about missed classes. Make-ups for examinations should be allowed by the instructor if, in the instructor's judgment, the student has presented a good excuse for missing the work. Instructors may penalize work which is late; however, the instructor's policies for make-ups and late work must be clearly specified on the student guide.

Attendance Policy in this Course:

Poor attendance will affect a student's grade. **If a student misses more than 4 classes, the student's grade may be lowered by one full letter grade.** If a student is absent excessively, the student can expect to fail the course. Lateness counts, too. **Two late arrivals of more than 10 minutes will equal one absence.**

Student and Faculty Support Services

ELRC (English Language Resource Center) The ELRC offers free tutoring twice a week, conversation groups, and computerized speaking/listening practice.	E-156	201- 612-5292 http://www.bergen.edu/pages/2182.asp
Intercultural Conversation Program (ICP). The ICP offers students the opportunity to meet one-on-one with native English speakers for conversation practice	L-125	201-447-7489 http://www.bergen.edu/pages1/Pages/4624.aspx
The Office of Specialized Services (for students with disabilities)	S-131	201-612-5270 www.bergen.edu/oss
The Sidney Silverman Library – Reference Desk	L-226	201-447-7436 http://www.bergen.edu/pages/683.asp

Tentative Course Outline & Calendar

Note to Students: The following Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	September 5	Introduction to the Course Meeting New People -conversation starters, small talk, dating customs
Week 2	September 12	Meeting New People
Week 3	September 19	Group Work; Group Presentation #1
Week 4	September 26	Quiz #1 School Life -boredom, learning styles, multiple intelligences
Week 5	October 3	School Life
Week 6	October 10	Review Group Presentation #2 (in class work)
Week 7	October 17	give Group Presentation #2 Quiz #2
Week 8	October 24	Individual Presentation #1 Phobias -etiquette, personal space, euphemisms
Week 9	October 31	Phobias
Week 10	November 7	Group Work; Group Presentation #3
Week 11	November 14	Quiz #3 Traveling -traveling, jet lag, culture shock, stereotypes

Week 12	November 21	Traveling
Week 13	November 28	Group Work; Group Presentation #4
Week 14	December 5	Review
Week 15	December 12	Individual Presentation #2
Week 16	December 19	Final Exam