Super-Intensive Evening Courses

COURSES FOR 300/400 LEVEL STUDENTS

Oral Communication 1 (OC1; 300/400 levels): In many English listening and speaking textbooks, the materials are “scripted”, not always natural language. In Oral Communication 1, English language learners will be introduced to English as it is spoken, to natural language in speaking and listening activities in social and academic situations. In the social domain, students will practice giving introductions and invitations, describing themselves and others, speaking politely, and offering help. In the academic domain, students will practice asking for and confirming information, expressing doubt, and explaining problems. Students will also review and practice grammatical and pronunciation features of spoken English such as question formation, modals of doubt and possibility as well as intonation and reduced forms.

Pronunciation Basics (PB; 300/400 levels): Pronunciation Basics introduces students to high-frequency pronunciation targets that are both essential and challenging for most English language learners. The course presents specific pronunciation points and then provides practice activities that encourage interaction and communication with others. Class activities include guided conversations, information gap exercises, interviews, and short oral reports.

COURSES FOR 500/600 LEVEL STUDENTS

Academic Skills for the TOEFL iBT (TOEFL; 500/600 levels): This 500/600 level course will help students prepare for the TOEFL iBT by focusing on 3 main areas: developing key academic vocabulary necessary to better comprehend reading and listening passages, developing the language mini-skills needed to respond better to the individual tasks, and giving learners multiple opportunities to practice TOEFL iBT-like tasks.

Foundational Skills for the IELTS (FS IELTS; 500/600 levels): This 500/600 level course is designed to help you build the necessary foundational language and test-taking skills that will prepare you to take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic exam. In this course, you will analyze and practice the different tasks on the test, while developing the language strategies necessary to complete these tasks successfully. At the end of the course, you will have an opportunity to complete a full practice test, which will help you to become familiar with the test format.
Oral Communication (OC2; 500/600 levels): Oral Communication 2 is designed to integrate listening, speaking and pronunciation practice to help students build both fluency and accuracy. Topics may include Family; World Entertainment; Environmental Activism; Living in Two Cultures; and Making It Work. Listening skills targets are identifying attitudes, time order, and inference; pronunciation targets are correctly producing thought groups, reductions, and stress as well as recognizing the features of fast speech; and speaking skills include requesting clarification, defending an opinion, evaluating fact and opinion, speaking persuasively, and presenting to a small group.

Speaking on Society and Cultures 1 (SSC 1; 500/600 levels): A well-rounded study abroad experience includes not only classroom or textbook-based study, but also an exploration of the local community both on- and off-campus. By engaging in conversations with people who live and work in Philadelphia, and by attending local events and observing customs firsthand, students can go beyond stereotypes to develop a deeper understanding of diverse patterns in thinking and behavior. In Speaking on Society & Cultures 1, students will develop a more global mindset by working in teams to research and present findings on American culture in Philadelphia. In the process, students will gain skills and confidence in starting and maintaining conversations, interviewing, and presenting information. This course may be followed by Speaking on Society & Cultures 2 for a more in-depth exploration of the Philadelphia community.

COURSES FOR 700/800 LEVEL STUDENTS

Applying Advanced Grammar (AAG; 700/800 levels): The primary aim of Applying Advanced Grammar is to help students increase their knowledge and use of advanced English grammar. Students will participate in a variety of lively activities that will help them gain confidence in speaking and writing English accurately and fluently, bridging the important gap between knowing grammar and using it. The course takes students from a review of English verb tenses including “interesting” verb aspects such as the future perfect progressive (will have been studying) to advanced constructs such as appropriate usage of the passive voice as well as continued review and practice of gerunds and infinitives.

Communicating with Idioms (CWI; 700/800 levels): Fluency in a language is more than grammar and basic vocabulary. Fluency also includes the ability to understand and use the language at a deeper level. In Communicating with Idioms, an interactive and fun course, students will be introduced to idioms and metaphors used regularly by native speakers of English, for example, sports metaphors such as “hitting it out of the park”, (being very successful at a task). Students will create team skits and role plays using targeted idioms and metaphors. Each student will also give a short presentation on a metaphor of their own choosing.

Listening and Speaking with Confidence (LSC; 700/800 levels): Students in Listening and Speaking with Confidence will use a variety of authentic listening segments as the starting points for increasing their conversational skills and fluency in English. Topics will include Turning Points, Learning a New Language, Law and Order, and Memories. Skills will include using context to increase understanding, recognizing and using signposts, recognizing and using expressions of contrast and logical division,
synthesizing information from various sources, and making generalizations and digressions. The speaking assessments in this course are closely linked with the skills required for success on the speaking components of the TOEFL.

**Pronunciation Improvement (PI; 700/800 levels):** Pronunciation Improvement is designed to help students speak English more clearly, confidently, and accurately. The course concentrates on the vowel and consonant sounds that occur frequently in English and which can be challenging for non-native speakers. Other important features for clear communication included in the course are advanced speaking challenges such as contrastive stress, appositives, and listing intonation. Each unit has a theme and ends with a communicative speaking activity that practices the targets in that unit. Themes include Happiness, Gender, Health, Working, and Living Independently. A Student Audio CD-Rom is included with the text.

**Society & Culture: Research, Reporting and Reflection (SCRRR; 700/800 levels):** Studying in a foreign university requires students to explore and interact with their campus and local community. In Society & Culture: Research, Reporting and Reflection, students will select one of the following strands: policy, sustainability or culture, and develop a research project aimed at enhancing their global understanding. In the process, students will refine their skills in developing a research question, creating a survey, and reporting their findings. In addition, students will develop their ability to reflect on their experience in the course by assessing their skills and learning. Students will create an e-portfolio to compile and display their research findings and reflections.

**Speaking on Society and Cultures 2 (SSC 2; 700/800 levels):** A well-rounded study abroad experience includes not only classroom or textbook-based study, but also an exploration of the local community both on- and off-campus. By engaging in conversations with people who live and work in Philadelphia, and by attending local events and observing customs firsthand, students can go beyond stereotypes to develop a deeper understanding of diverse patterns in thinking and behavior. In Speaking on Society & Cultures 2, students will develop a more global mindset by working in teams to research and present findings on American culture in Philadelphia. In the process, students will gain advanced skills and confidence in starting and maintaining conversations, interviewing, and presenting information. This course may be taken after Speaking on Societies & Cultures 1, for a more in-depth exploration of the Philadelphia community.