

**Skyline College**  
**Official Course Outline**

**Date:** August 2006

1. **TITLE:**  
ESOL 801  
Basic Conversational English  
2.0 units 2 class hours per week, plus 1 hour per week by arrangement  
Prerequisite: none  
Recommendation: Eligibility for ESOL 810 or equivalent.
  
2. **COURSE CLASSIFICATION:**  
Credit course NOT applicable to the Associate Degree.
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
A practical course in the English language approached by way of conversation. Intensive drill in the patterns and idioms of daily speech in standard spoken English with sufficient grammar to give flexibility to the spoken language. Introduction to American culture. Appropriate for beginning speakers of English who are eligible for ESOL 810.  
  
**Schedule of Classes Description:**  
Beginning speakers of English who are eligible for ESOL 810 will become familiar with basic, conversational, standard English and will develop an understanding of and appreciation for American culture.
  
4. **COURSE JUSTIFICATION:**  
This course is for students who wish to attend a college-level course offering depth and breadth of quality instruction in spoken English, but who desire a less academic focus than the standard ESOL offering. No such course exists at present, and demand for such a course has been brought to our attention by community organizations.
  
5. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO'S):**  
Students will be able to:
  - Produce intelligible pronunciation and formulate statements and questions that use the basic vocabulary pertaining to greetings, directions, prices, time, travel, health, familiar objects, and descriptions
  - Recognize appropriate language and register to use in unique English-speaking situations
  - Employ basic grammatical structures to facilitate speaking English
  - Use appropriate conversation strategies such as initiating, maintaining, and appropriately ending a conversation, asking for repetition, or clarifying to facilitate understanding
  - Use appropriate gestures, body language, fillers, and gambits to facilitate conversation in English
  - Use knowledge of American culture to choose appropriate conversational strategies
  
6. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
  - Produce intelligible pronunciation and formulate statements and questions that use the basic vocabulary pertaining to greetings, directions, prices, time, travel, health, familiar objects, and descriptions
    - Listen to good models of American language through video, audio, or role-play
    - Practice and use target structures
    - Record voice for teacher evaluation
  - Recognize appropriate language and register to use in unique English-speaking situations
    - Analyze video, audio, or role-plays to extract appropriate behaviors
    - Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate and inappropriate behaviors in simple interactions
  - Employ basic grammatical structures to facilitate speaking English
    - Analyze video, audio, or role-plays to extract basic grammatical structures
    - Demonstrate use of basic grammatical structures in speaking
  - Use appropriate conversation strategies such as initiating, maintaining, and appropriately ending a conversation, asking for repetition, or clarifying to facilitate understanding
    - Study and practice codified English rejoinders, conversational gambits, and strategies
    - Use rejoinders, conversational gambits and strategies in speech

- Employ rejoinders in conversation
- Use appropriate gestures, body language, fillers, and gambits to facilitate conversation in English
  - Analyze gestures and body language and compare it to that of own culture
  - Interpret gestures and body language correctly
  - Use simple gestures and body language correctly
  - Use fillers appropriately in spoken English
- Use knowledge of American culture to choose appropriate conversational strategies
  - Identify and interpret cultural situations and choose the appropriate response

## 7. **COURSE CONTENT:**

This course consists of input and exposure to target structures of contemporary spoken English through audio, video, reading, or role-play. Students analyze the language in context and practice structures. Students integrate structures into conversation. Outside language practice in the form of interviews, information gathering, and projects are included. Typical topics can include:

- jobs and descriptions (contractions of verb be)
- directions (there is/there are, clarification, repetition)
- prices (third person singular, present continuous, negatives, likes/dislikes)
- time (prepositions, future)
- travel (question words, conversation initiators and enders)
- health (modals, can/can't)
- familiar objects (adjectives, comparatives, conversation extenders)
- descriptions (present and past tense)

## 8. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Methods of instruction will include pair activities, group activities, outside English language activities, recorded voice activities, and group discussion.

## 9. **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments will include practice and production of particular sounds and structures in English, identification and analysis of appropriate and inappropriate responses to spoken English, aural reinforcement and oral practice of standard grammatical spoken English, in-class and out-of-class conversational practice, analysis and use of appropriate gestures and fillers, practice in initiating, maintaining, and ending a conversation, and identifying aspects of American culture that facilitate conversation in English.

## 10. **EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

Letter grade or Credit/No Credit. Evaluation is based on class participation and fulfillment of Student Learning Outcomes as measured by oral practice, in-class activities, oral recordings, aural comprehension exercises, and analysis.

## 11. **RECOMMENDED or REQUIRED TEXT(S):**

Foley, B. (1994) Listen to Me! Beginning Listening, Speaking, & Pronunciation. 2/e. Heinle: Boston. ISBN 0-8384-5264-7.

Kehe & Kehe (2004) Conversation Strategies. Pro Lingua Associates: Brattleboro. ISBN: 086647-189-8

Kozyrev, J. (2002) Talk it Up! Listening, Speaking, and Pronunciation. 2/e. Houghton Mifflin: Boston. ISBN 0-618-14019-0

Wall, A. (1998) Say It Naturally 1: Verbal Strategies for Authentic Communication. Heinle: Boston. ISBN 0030221978