

# English as a Second Language (ESL) Institute

## General Course Descriptions

*ESL courses provide students practice and improvement of their English language skills in all areas. Some courses focus on specific skills while others combine several skills in ways which imitate what is required to succeed in college-level classes (including preparation for the TOEFL exam) or to advance their career opportunities.*

*Each semester, course schedule and content may change slightly depending on the needs of the enrolled students.*

**American Culture and Current Events:** An introduction to key points of American culture and current events. Students will use all skill areas (reading, writing, grammar, etc.) in this course.

**Speaking and Listening:** Students will practice speaking, listening and pronunciation; emphasis is on skills needed for both college lecture and study and real-life communication.

**Grammar I and II:** Students practice sentence completion and error correction for items found in conversation, professional situations and college study. Grammar I students focus on beginning topics and exercises to establish a foundation for higher levels of study. Grammar II students apply their skills to writing and speaking exercises and other real-life applications.

**Pronunciation Concepts and Practices:** Students receive extra practice with individual pronunciation issues.

**Reading:** Students work to improve their reading comprehension using a variety of reading texts, beginning with simple passages to academic level reading and writing passages.

**Reading and Vocabulary:** Students work to improve vocabulary and build reading skills. By combining reading skills and vocabulary strategies, students gain understanding of simple reading passages and improve to academic level writing and passages.

**TOEFL Preparation:** Students use examples and practice to gain confidence for the iBT TOEFL exam. Using a combination of all basic skill areas in this course also prepares the student for future college-level studies.

**Vocabulary:** Vocabulary acquisition is the focus of this course; students will expand their vocabulary and learn strategies for dealing with new words, working with simple passages and moving to academic contexts.

**Writing I and II:** Strong writing skills are *essential* for students in any university program, and students work to improve basic writing skills in this course. Writing I begins with the basics of writing effective sentences and paragraphs. Writing II further develops students' skills with a focus on the essay writing expected at the college level.

### **Evening/Weekend Courses:**

#### **Intermediate Business English**

This class focuses on conversational and writing skills for intermediate level students with a focus on business vocabulary, tasks and settings, such as meetings, using the telephone, presentations and negotiations.

**TOEFL Preparation**

Students use examples and practice to gain confidence for the iBT TOEFL exam in the four areas covered on the iBT TOEFL: reading comprehension, listening for understanding, speaking skills and expository writing as well as understanding the scoring criteria.

**Beginning Conversation**

This course will give beginning students the oral foundation for other ESL courses. Basic vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures will be covered to help build students' speaking skills as well as confidence. Students will learn how to conduct daily conversation in different situations.

**Intermediate Conversation**

This class focuses on conversational skills for high beginning to intermediate level students. Students will practice speaking on a variety of topics in different settings and will also learn listening and speaking strategies including vocabulary and pronunciation.

**Advanced Grammar and Writing**

This course will give higher level students extra emphasis on grammar points and writing not covered in basic and intermediate conversational classes. Enrolled students will be expected to have a good level of conversational English and some foundational grammar.