Course Goals for each Mini-Course
in the 2012 Summer English Intensive Program

English Interpersonal Communication

Monday (July 23): Introductions, Renting an Apartment
- What is pragmatics?
- What are some pragmatics strategies you can use when introducing yourself?
- What are some pronunciation strategies you can use to make your name, phone number, and email address clear?
- What are some small talk questions you can use to “break the ice” with your classmates?
- What are some strategies to politely ask for information?
- What are some new vocabulary words you learned about apartments/rentals?

Tuesday (July 24): Stating advice and opinions softly, How the US Education System Works
- Can you explain what hedging is?
- What are 3-4 words/phrases you can use to soften an opinion/advice?
- How does the US education system work? Why is there a wide variation in the types of education American students receive?
- What are some new vocabulary words you learned about cars?

Wednesday (July 25): Elevator Pitches, Asking for Information Politely
- Are you comfortable with your personal elevator pitch?
- Do you know some words/phrases to use when approaching someone to ask for the information?

Thursday (July 26): The Business Lunch, Presentation Strategies, Fun Stuff To Do in Rochester, Road Trips, Giving Instructions Politely
- Can you understand common slang used in a restaurant setting?
- Can you give instructions politely without sounding “bossy”?
- Do you have some ideas about things you could do in Rochester (and in the US) that might be fun and give you a chance to use English?

Friday (July 27): Review, Inviting People/Words for Socializing

Communicative Grammar

Articles
- What do “the” and “a” really mean to a native speaker? Do they have a meaning? What’s the difference between “the house is on fire” and “a house is on fire”?
- Why do many ESL speaker tend to forget articles?

Phrasal Verbs
- What is a phrasal verb?
- What is the difference between a separable” and non-separable phrasal verb?
- What are some good resources for continued study on this topic?

Simple Present Tense
-What is the highest frequency mistake that people make with simple present?
-What would be some key words or phrases that would require present tense?

**Present Continuous**
-What is the difference in meaning between simple present and present continuous?
-How can we use present continuous to talk about the future?
-How can we use present continuous to complain about something?

**Past Simple**
-When we talk about events in our past, what would be the difference between selecting simple past or other past tenses such as past progressive?

**Present Perfect**
-Can you explain what the difference is between “they have robbed three banks” and “they robbed three banks”. Which phrase would the FBI probably use on a wanted poster and why?

**Present Perfect Progressive**
-Suppose a friend calls you and asks “so how’s life in Rochester?”. Would you say “I have been studying a lot” or “I studied a lot”. Why?

**Past Perfect**
-Bob changed his opinion about Rebecca’s presidential campaign. Actually, Rebecca would be a great president Which one (or ones) could he say: “I thought Rebecca was crazy, but now I see that she’ll be a great president” or “I had thought that Rebecca was crazy, but now I see that she’ll be a great president”.

**Past Perfect Progressive**
-Which of these stresses how much Rebecca’s daughter loves her grandparents: “Rebecca’s daughter was crying and then her grandparents showed up” or “Rebecca’s daughter had been crying and then her grandparents showed up”. Hint: Both are grammatically OK – at least in spoken English – but the “flavor” is just a bit different.

**Future Tenses**
-What is the difference in formality and the timeline between the following: “I will go to the party”, “I am going to go to the party”, and “I’m going to the party”?

**Pronunciation**

**Stress and Syllables**
-What is a syllable?
-Do people from your native language tend to omit syllables or add syllables to words? Why?
-What does it mean when we say “stressed syllable”? 

**Vowels**
-What are alphabet vowels and when do they occur?
-What are relative vowels and when do they occur?
-What is a “hooked u”? Can you give an example word?
-W hat is a “schwa” and when do it occur?
-How do the vowel rules apply to multi-syllable words?

Intonation
-Why is intonation important?
-What sound changes happen to a focus word?
-What words do we usually deemphasize?

Linking
-What is linking?
-Is it helpful to pronounce English words –one-by-one-with-a-pause-between? Why or why not?

Consonant Sounds
-What should you do with your tongue whenever you encounter either “th” sound?
-What is the difference between /r/ and /l/?
-What significance do /s/ and /z/ and /t/ and /d/ sounds have at the end of words? Can mispronunciation here change the meaning?

English for Academic Purposes

Writing
-What are an English speaker’s expectations for a paragraph?
-How to use sentence templates/patterns to increase the grammatical accuracy of your writing and add interest and variety
-What is a collocation dictionary and how can it help you?
-How can answer questions like: Which is correct: ‘make advice’, ‘give advice’, ‘say advice’, or ‘do advice’?”
-What are some strategies that English speakers use to make writing cohesive?
-What are some concrete characteristics of informal (i.e. email) versus formal (i.e. academic papers) writing?

Listening
-What sound changes happen when an English speaker wants to emphasize an important point?
-What is back channeling and how can you use it to enhance communication?
-How can answer questions like: Which is correct: ‘make advice’, ‘give advice’, ‘say advice’, or ‘do advice’?”
-How can cooperative listening help you understand academic lectures better?
-How can predictive listening help you understand others better?

Oral Participation in the Academic Environment: Presentations and Seminar Discussion
-What verbal strategies can you use to soften opinions?
-What is a sandwich presentation and why is it important for an English speaking audience?
-What are signpost words and how can you use them effectively in presentations?