Spoken Interpersonal Communication in an American Context

Course Description:
This highly-interactive class is aimed at advanced speakers of English as a Second language and teaches strategies for navigating everyday work and life situations in culturally savvy and linguistically intelligible ways. This class is designed for professionals whose job involves extensive spoken interpersonal communication, such as medical practitioners and teaching assistants/instructors; linguistically and culturally challenging situations such as giving advice, relating disagreeable facts, making presentations, negotiating, networking, and interviewing for a job will be covered.

Course dates/times:
July 27-July 31, M-F, from 9 am – 1 pm

Instructor Information and Contact:
Rebecca Allen
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skype: accentschool_rebecca

Please don’t hesitate to contact me. I am here to help! Skype is probably the quickest way to reach me, but certainly other modalities are fine as well.

Materials:
A course packet will be given out on the first day of class (also downloadable off website).
There is no textbook to purchase for this class.

Please bring an internet enable devise (smart phone, laptop) to class.

Please also bring a recording device (i.e. smartphone) to class if you already own one (i.e. no need to purchase a recorder).

Grades:
This is a not for credit ESL course. There will be no grades assigned. The goals checklist in the course kit and a not-for credit “exam” at the end of the course are instruments to help students measure their own progress.
Course Goals Checklist/Schedule for Spoken Interpersonal Communication in an American Context

This is a not for credit course, but I still want to make sure you learn! As we go through the course these are the topics and goals that we will cover (tentatively). At the end of the course, you can look at this list. What have you learned? Which topics did we cover that were very important for you? Is there anything you need to review?

Monday: 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: 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: 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: 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?

(On Friday we will have a review day)