Conversational English Skills (for ESL speakers)
offered August 3-August 21, M-F, from 11:45 am-1:00 pm
CRN: 10909 Room: MEL 218
Instructor: Rebecca Allen
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There is no required course text. Many handouts/worksheets will be provided; it is suggested that students purchase a binder to keep all of the information organized.

Description:
In this practical and highly participatory course, students will take part in interactive discussions, role-plays, and debates. Subsequent to the speaking activities, the instructor will offer an explanation of student mistakes and areas for improvement, thus helping students to identify and address areas of weaknesses. This course is an excellent opportunity to improve English speaking and listening skills in a supportive and fun environment.

How the course will be structured:
This course uses a unique format: student-learning. After each day’s vocabulary enrichment and speaking activities, students will be given a spontaneous debriefing on the errors that they actually made in the session. The subsequent day, the instructor will start the session with a short, formal lesson further covering the previous day’s errors. In short, the course gives students a chance to talk and receive feedback and do exercises based on their actual – not supposed – mistakes.

This is a not-for credit course, but a “friendly” exam will be scheduled for the last week for the course to help students measure their own improvement. The exam will be based on the error debriefing sessions/course handouts.

Tentative list of topics/themes:

August 3 – “It’s a small world!”
August 4 – 9-5: Jobs
August 5 – Love and romance
August 6, 2013 – Obesity
August 7– Cross cultural differences
August 10 –Family and loved ones
August 11 – How did you learn English?
August 12, 2013 – A little drama
August 13 – Healthcare
August 14 – “Where there is smoke there’s fire”
August 17 – “Two thumbs up”: Film Critics
August 18 – Pop Culture
August 19 – Hobbies
August 20 – Lies, Lies, and more lies!
August 21 – Body Language