**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Division of Bilingual Studies**

**ESL 112 – American Culture and Diversity**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:** ESL 112 American Culture and Diversity

**Credit Hours:**  3.0 **Contact Hours:**  3.0 **Lecture:** 3.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  Placement through a writing exam and an oral interview

**Co-requisites:** ESL 105/106 **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:**  Spring 2011

**Course Description**: The purpose of this course is to familiarize international students with basic aspects of mainstream US culture and history in preparation for college-level courses. The course engages students in discussions and writings on assigned readings.  Students are encouraged to use academic language in classroom discussions and writings.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate knowledge of mainstream US cultural issues;

2. utilize idiomatic expressions and phrases correctly; and

3. demonstrate and discuss the role of non-verbal communication as it relates to cultural norms and differences.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of mainstream US cultural issues:

1.1 *discuss celebrating holidays and special events;*

1.2 *discuss US birthday, wedding, and funeral customs;*

1.3 *discuss attitudes towards wild animals and pets;* and

1.4 *discuss the business and social uses of the phone and computer*

2. Utilize idiomatic expressions and phrases correctly:

2.1 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to give someone a hand’;*

2.2 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to try one’s hand at something’;*

2.3 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to have butterfingers’;*

2.4 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to hand it over’;*

2.5 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to thumb a ride’;*

2.6 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to give someone the cold shoulder’;*

2.7 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to have two left feet’;*

2.8 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to stick one’s neck out’;* and

2.9 *explain and use correctly the idiom ‘to follow the rule of thumb’*

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)** (continued):

3. Demonstrate and discuss the role of non-verbal communication as it relates to cultural norms and differences:

3.1 *demonstrate and discuss interpersonal distance and space requirements*;

3.2 *demonstrate and discuss common hand gestures used in the US;* and

3.3 *demonstrate and discuss common facial gestures used in the US*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of lectures, class discussions, audiotapes, and videotapes.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Quiz and exam questions are blueprinted to course objectives. Rubrics are used to evaluate topic presentations for the presence and mastery of course objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Maintain regular attendance.

2. Complete assigned homework on time.

3. Take part in class discussions.

4. Take all quizzes and exams as scheduled.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Homework and Class Participation 25%**

Students must attend and participate in all classes to benefit from the instructor’s expertise and to interact with classmates. Students must participate in all class activities and complete all assigned homework, which are designed to emphasize course objectives.

* **9 or more Chapter Quizzes** (dates specified by the instructor)  **25%**

Quizzes will show evidence of the extent to which students have mastered course objectives.

* Topic Presentations (dates specified by the instructor)  25%

Topic Presentations on content related to course objectives will provide an opportunity for students to enhance their oral communication skills as well as provide evidence of the extent to which students have mastered course objectives.

**Methods of Evaluation** (continued)**:**

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Final Exam**  **25%**

The Final Exam will show evidence of the extent to which students have synthesized course content and mastered course objectives.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the texts **Culturally Speaking**, by Rhona Genzel & Martha Graves Cummings; published by Heinle & Heinle, Boston, MA

**Week  Chapter/Topics**

1 – 2 Chapter 1 Getting Along with People

1.1 Introductions

1.2 Small Talk

1.3 Distance and Space Requirements

1.4 Hand Gestures

1.5 Facial Gestures

**Chapter Quiz 1**

3 – 4 Chapter 2 Attending School

2.1 Learning about North American Schools

2.2 Rules for Attending School

2.3 Asking for Help

**Chapter Quiz 2**

5 – 6 Chapter 3 Building Friendships

3.1 Friendships Across Cultures

3.2 Image

3.3 Sharing Good and Bad Times

3.4 Problem Situations

**Chapter Quiz 3**

7 Chapter 4 Dating

4.1 Dating Across Cultures

4.2 Dating Customs

4.3 Compliments and Conversations

**Chapter Quiz 4**

8 – 9 Chapter 5 Sharing Common Interests

5.1 North American Humor

5.2 Superstitions

5.3 Telling ‘Stories’

5.4 Attitudes Towards Wild Animals and Pets

5.5 Debate Over Endangered Species

5.6 Health

5.7 Music

**Chapter Quiz 5**

10 – 11 Chapter 6 Participating in Social Events

6.1 Social Events

6.2 Saying the Right Things at Weddings and Funerals

6.3 Celebrating Holidays and Special Events

6.4 Going Out with Friends

6.5 The Concept of Time

**Chapter Quiz 6**

**Week  Chapter/Topics**

12 Chapter 7 Shopping

7.1 Places to Shop

7.2 Making Purchases

7.3 Talking with Salespeople

7.4 Problems and Solutions

**Chapter Quiz 7**

13 Chapter 8 Using the Telephone

8.1 Learning about the Telephone

8.2 Talking on the Telephone

8.3 Business and Social Uses of the Telephone

**Chapter Quiz 8**

14 Chapter 9 Going to the Doctor

9.1 Preparing for a Visit to the Doctor

9.2 Visiting the Doctor

**Chapter Quiz 9**

15 Review of all Course Content

**Final Exam**

Note: Topic Presentations assigned on topics covered in each chapter and related to course objectives are delivered throughout the semester as scheduled by the instructor.