683S Workshop in Oral Communication for International Students
Wednesday, 1:15 – 3:05 p.m. or 3:15 -5:05 p.m.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will focus on helping students improve their oral communication skills for academic and daily life. Emphasis will be on increasing confidence and fluency through realistic and practical activities both in and out of class. Content will include such topics as idiom and slang usage, academic listening and discussion skills, developing and using questions to obtain specific information, conducting surveys and oral presentation skills.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following in English:

- Appropriately use and respond to casual greetings
- Identify several conversational styles and explain how they differ
- Create and use appropriate questions to obtain specific information
- Develop an effective questionnaire and conduct a brief survey
- Give an oral presentation employing the use of a visual aid

Materials:

Handouts and activities developed by the instructor.

Requirements:

Students will be expected to fully and actively participate in class. Students will be expected to come to class with their homework assignments completed. Every student will be required to give at least two oral presentations of varying lengths in the class. Specific instructions regarding the content and guidelines for these presentations will be explained in class.

Students who register to take the class for 2 units will be required to attend an additional 30-minute tutorial each week for the duration of the course. The instructor, along with the tutor, will determine the focus of these tutorial sessions after obtaining information from the individual students regarding their interests and needs.

Evaluation:

To receive a passing grade in this class, students must come to every class on time, complete all homework assignments, and actively participate in class. The amount of improvement you gain from the course greatly depends on how much effort you put into it.

Suggestions:

- Speak English as much as possible!
- Come to class ready to participate!
- Don’t be afraid to make mistakes!
- Have fun!