

Advanced English Conversation, Spring 2009

Instructor: Charles Zhengwei Chen (陳徵蔚)

Textbook: *English Conversation in Taiwan, Intermediate Level (Revised Edition)*

Office: 清劭館 B108 (Monday 13:00-14:45; Thursday 13:00-14:45)

Extension Number: 7930

E-mail: bluemoon@cyu.edu.tw

While most English conversation courses are overly British-American oriented, this one aims to provide an alternative bridge between the cultures in Taiwan and their English expressions. Although it seems feasible for students to speak fluent English, most of them have difficulties introducing their own cultures to the foreigners. They may know, for instance, how to order cheese bake and lasagna in the restaurant, but fail to introduce the “oyster thin noodles” (蚵仔麵線) and “oyster omelet” (蚵仔煎) in the night-market. It is definitely important to help students understand the world internationally, whereas it should be even more critical to contextualize their language learning in the framework of the local culture. Such contextualization is much more than the food introduction in the night-market; nevertheless, it may be a point of departure to learn our local cultures through a foreign language in the age of globalization.

After the teacher introduces some important vocabulary, students should discuss related issues in pairs and meanwhile have conversation with the teacher. They should bring their own name plates to class and put them on the desks every time so that people can know each other’s names without too much memorization. Moreover, students will be divided into several discussion groups and fulfill the group projects or role plays, all of which will be taken into the average of the final grades.

Evaluation Standard

Attendance and Punctuality	15%
Class Participation	20%
Individual Report	35%
Group Project	30%

Individual Report: A well-organized report with slide show for five minutes.

Role Play: A show for fifteen to twenty minutes, all members included.

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Individual Report 5

19 Final Week

Role Play—Shopping for Clothes