Spoken Communication: Conversation in Context

Course Description

Spoken Communication: Conversation in Context focuses on the linguistic, pragmatic, and conversational strategies needed to contribute ideas and opinions to conversations in a culturally appropriate way along with effectively interacting with others in campus classrooms and in daily life. Students will conduct field work interviewing and exploring how English is used by Chicagoans and reflect on their own English usage. The cultural and linguistic meanings behind what students say and how they say it in English are also explored to improve intercultural communication among speakers with different backgrounds.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the features of linguistic breakdown resulting from speaking and be able to identify those features in one’s speech.
- Learn native and superior speaker strategies for navigating and circumlocuting difficult situations requiring unplanned speech.
- Understand and improve intercultural communication skills among native and non-native speakers.
- Understand how culture and language intersect through communication to form meaning in American English.
- Adapt speech appropriately when communicating with people at different positions in a social hierarchy.
- Understand and use pragmatic speaking skills to improve spoken communication.

Required Materials

- Folder/notebook to organize class material
- Laptop

Recommended Materials

- *That’s Not What I Meant!* – Deborah Tannen
- *How Language Works* – David Crystal
- *Beyond Culture* – Edward T. Hall