

**“FREE”  
INFORMAL ENGLISH CONVERSATIONAL WORKSHOPS  
FOR UMASS LOWELL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
Fall 2014  
Start Wednesday, September 24th**

Two Separate Classes will be offered by two separate Instructors. Interested students may attend one or both:

<b>Wednesday class - from 5:15-6:30</b> September 24 - December 17	Olsen Hall, Room 406
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**AND/OR**

<b>Thursday class - from 5:00-6:30</b> September 25 - December 18	Olsen Hall, Room 410
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These informal conversational sessions aim to help English language learners improve their communication skills in English and develop confidence in their ability to speak English spontaneously. Students will learn how to think critically and present their ideas convincingly and effectively in an informal, friendly environment. Topics to be discussed will vary each week according to students' interests and/or needs. During each session, students will be broken up into smaller groups; each group will have a native speaker moderator. An experienced ESL instructor will proctor each session. Each week, the instructor will prepare a list of words and phrases relevant to the topic to assure that the students' vocabulary expands and their communication skills improve consistently.

At the beginning of each session, the relevant vocabulary will be introduced to assure that all the students understand the topic and can fully participate in the discussion. Then, every student will be able to speak on a given topic for an extended period of time within his/her group. The moderator will make sure that every student learns to formulate, express and successfully defend his or her ideas and opinions. Due to the very interactive nature of this workshop, in addition to speaking skills, students will have an opportunity to interpret input from other international students and make critical and rational judgments individually and collectively.

*Coordinated by the International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)*