**Information about PLaCE Foundational Courses and Short Courses**

Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange (PLaCE) supports international students who have learned English as a second language, and who will benefit from language and cultural support as they adjust to life at a U.S. university. The mission of PLaCE is to provide a strong instructional and assessment program in order to help participating undergraduate and graduate students to develop the academic, linguistic and cultural competencies needed to participate in university life and to compete for graduate school and employment opportunities.

The PLaCE program consists of three instructional components for Purdue students:

**English 110: American Language and Culture for International Students I** provides students with a foundation for increasing their intercultural competence and academic language skills. In addition to three major projects and related class and homework, students complete weekly journals and video blogs, in which they explore course topics and practice writing and speaking skills. Specific topics and skills addressed during English 110 include self-regulated learning, goal setting, creative thinking, collaboration and teamwork, reflection, sentence and paragraph writing, and speaking and reading fluency.

**English 111: American Language and Culture for International Students II** builds on the general foundation of intercultural competence and language skills in 110 by delving into more specific elements of language and culture. Students complete three major projects, weekly journals, and a range of activities in and out of class. Specific topics and skills addressed during English 111 include conceptual learning, critical thinking, reflection, source use and citations, oral presentation skills, collaboration, and developing an effective writing process for learning and communication in an academic setting.

**PLaCE Short Courses** provide additional options for support in English language development and will be open to all international undergraduate and all graduate students. Short courses are non-credit bearing six-week-long courses (shorter than a full semester). Previously offered short courses include: Speaking and Listening: Pronunciation and Prosody; Speaking and Listening: Public Speaking; Speaking and Listening: Social Language Use, and Academic Writing: Focus on Grammar. PLaCE will be expanding its offering of short courses beginning in fall 2018. Short Courses currently under development are listed here:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaking | Academic Writing | Vocabulary | Reading |
| Pronunciation & Prosody | 1: Focus on Essentials | Increasing Vocabulary Size | Reading Efficiently: Focus on Fluency |
| Presentations & Public Speaking | 2: Focus on Grammar | Idioms and Expressions in American English | Reading Efficiently: Focus on Strategies |
| Academic Conversation Skills | 3: Focus on Integrating of Sources |  | Reading Group: Short Fiction, Novel, Nonfiction, Current Events |
| Social Language Use | 4: Focus on Style and Usage |  |  |
|  | Personal Statements and Statements of Purpose |  |  |
|  | Communicating through Email |  |  |

**PLaCE Short Course: Proposed Titles & Descriptions**

Beginning fall 2018, PLaCE will offer Short Courses for international students. These courses provide undergraduate and graduate students flexible, focused options to meet their English language needs and fit their schedule. Short Courses last for 5-6 weeks, are non-credit-bearing, and require no additional fees to student. Listed below are classes currently in development. A detailed schedule will be available online for fall semester 2018 (www.purdue.edu/place).

**Short Courses for Speaking**

**Pronunciation & Prosody**

This short course will help non-native speakers of English develop a more “listener friendly” pronunciation through practice of clear vowel sounds and the sound patterns in spoken English (including stress, rhythm, and melody). Classes include some focused instruction and practice of specific elements of pronunciation, with many chances to practice through hands-on activities.

**Presentation & Public Speaking**

This short course will give students the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills. The course is student driven, and the bulk of class time will be spent preparing for and delivering speeches in front of an audience. While no formal grades are given, the teacher will provide students with both written and verbal feedback.

**Academic Conversation Skills**

This short course will help students communicate more effectively in informal academic settings. If you have difficulty participating in class discussion or speaking to your classmates and professors, this course is designed to meet your needs. Participants will gain confidence as they develop their ability to engage in academic dialogue.

**Social Language Use**

This short course will give participants extensive practice to expand their conversational skills and cultural perspectives. The class will choose social topics and explore them through readings, video, media, discussions, and other activities. This course will also help students navigate the complexities of social interaction in the U.S. through different types of interactions including apologies, complaints, compliments, requests, and refusals.

**Short Courses for Writing**

**Academic Writing 1: Focus on Essentials**

This course is the first in the Academic Writing series of Short Courses. The two main goals of this course are (1) to enable students to set goals and create a plan to develop their academic writing skills and (2) to improve their ability to talk about their writing with peers, tutors, teachers, and advisors. This course will help students to prepare for more advanced work on writing in other Short Courses or in their major.

**Academic Writing 2: Focus on Grammar**

​This course will help students to improve the grammatical correctness of their academic writing and understand the way grammatical structures are used in academic writing. Students will learn to self-diagnose their most common grammatical errors, to apply key grammatical rules learned throughout the course, to develop strategies to enhance grammatical correctness, and to identify resources for improving their grammar. Specific topic areas covered in the course may include sentence structure and punctuation patterns, subject-verb agreement, using relative clauses correctly, and clarifying incorrect or vague pronoun references.

**Academic Writing 3: Focus on Integrating of Sources**

This course will help participants to improve their ability to integrate sources into their academic writing. Students will learn about principles, strategies, and resources for effective source use, including citation styles, in text citations, and reference lists. Students will also have extensive practice with summarizing, quoting, and paraphrasing, not only in examples and exercises but in their own writing projects as well.

**Academic Writing 4: Focus on Style and Usage**

​The most advanced in our Academic Writing sequence, this course helps students to answer a number of key questions about written language, such as: How do the stylistic tendencies of English differ from those of other languages? How can writers accurately describe the work and ideas of other scholars without losing the clarity of their own voices? What strategies can writers use to produce smooth, readable texts that guide the reader from sentence to sentence, from paragraph to paragraph, and from chapter to chapter?

**Personal Statements and Statements of Purpose**

This short course is intended for students who need to write essays in support of their applications to internships, scholarships, graduate school, or jobs. Topics and activities in this course include: understand the purpose of the different types of essays, crafting a message to connect with their audience, developing ideas, providing persuasive evidence, improving readability, and getting feedback from outside readers.

**Communicating through Email**

This course will help participants to write more effective emails. The course is organized around common communicative tasks accomplished through emails (such as making requests, providing information, and scheduling appointments), with the goal of helping students learn to write clearly and with a professional tone. Students will develop a repertoire of phrases and templates for future use.

**Short Courses for Reading**

**Reading Efficiently: Focus on Fluency**

This short course will help participants to increase their ability to read and understand more efficiently through a structured program of fluency development. Because this course uses a variety or listening and reading aloud exercises, this class is ideal for students who would like to improve their speaking skills and read more efficiently.

**Reading Efficiently: Focus on Strategies**

This short course will help participants to increase their ability to read and understand more efficiently through the use of reading strategies. Participants will learn about reading strategies and apply to their own academic reading. The purpose of the class is to help students identify a set of strategies that they find most effective.

**Reading Group: Short Fiction, Novel, Nonfiction, Current Events**

In this short course, participants will read a book or collection of shorter works and meet weekly to discuss. This course is ideal for students looking for a semi-structured way to use English regularly.

**Short Courses for Vocabulary**

**Increasing your Vocabulary Size**

This short course will help intermediate and advanced learners of English to improve their vocabulary knowledge. Participants will set a personal goal for vocabulary development and create an action plan to achieve that goal. Activities during the course include vocabulary assessments and using a variety of strategies, resources, and tools.

**Idioms and Expressions in American English**

This short course will help participants to improve their understanding of American culture through idioms. Learner outcomes include improved reading and listening comprehension, vocabulary development, and speaking. The course examines language through different cultural themes, such as social relationships, male/female relationships, job/work, time, and money.