



American Language and Culture Course
College of Staten Island, New York
(Offered Year Round on Special Request - Minimum of 10 students)



PURPOSE:

The program introduces participants to American society, government, and education while enhancing their English language ability. Through academic programs, visits to public and private institutions, and social events with Americans in informal settings, participants will become acquainted with individual Americans and with the “American way of life.”

THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND:

The College of Staten Island (CSI) is part of the City University of New York (CUNY), a large public university. It is located in the most suburban of the five boroughs (sections) of New York City on a beautiful, campus. The College offers degrees at the associate (two years), bachelors (four years) and graduate levels in a variety of fields. In addition to the one-month on the intensive American Language and Culture Course, the English Language Institute (ELI) prepares students for full-time study at CSI. The College is known for its commitment to international education and has an array of international partnerships and programs around the world. The Center for International Service frequently trains educational advisers from foreign institutions and governmental ministries regarding US studies and higher education.

LOCATION:

Staten Island offers a quiet and beautiful suburban atmosphere close to the exciting urban center of Manhattan. The Island is about four times the size of Manhattan and has a population of approximately 500,000. It is noted for its parks and recreational areas, in addition to several notable cultural sites. Manhattan and other "boroughs" of New York City are easily accessible by public transportation. The ferry shuttle bus located on the CSI campus is just a 25 minute ride to the ferry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Courses will cover themes in American culture, education, business and government. Participants will understand American diversity and the underlying values many Americans share and practice. Discussions and seminars help to integrate the information with their own experience in New York. The course is from Monday through Thursday with 20 hours per week.

Sample Syllabus:

Week 1

- Orientation Week
- Initial Assessments and Placements
- Culture in the United States
- Traditional and Contemporary Values in the U.S.
- Vocabulary and Idiom Review
- Manhattan Bus Tour

Week 2

- Optional “English in Action” Community Opportunities
- American History and Religious Heritage
- The U.S.- The Land of Abundance
- Vocabulary and Idiom Review
- Staten Island Tour

Week 3

- Optional “English in Action” Community Opportunities
- Business -Values and Ethics in the Workplace
- Politics – American Government
- Diversity in the US- Melting Pot or Not?
- Vocabulary and Idiom Review

Week 4

- Optional “English in Action” Community Opportunities
- American Educational System
- Leisure – Sports and Values
and Health and Fitness
- Popular Culture, Media, and the Internet
- Excursion to Broadway Show
- Final Assessments

Language Testing

Participants will be tested and informally interviewed upon their arrival. Based on the results, the participants will be placed at the appropriate level. The language program includes classes in grammar, reading, writing, and communication skills. The American topics are integrated with language learning.

One of the goals of the program is to introduce participants to the rich resources of New York City and how to use them effectively. Field trips will include visits to sites of professional and cultural interest as well as local social gatherings. An introduction to New York City will include tours of Manhattan and Staten Island and other boroughs upon request. These forays will provide an overview of the people, institutions, sites, and culture of the various local places. Visits will be arranged to athletic events, museums, and other cultural institutions. These excursions will be reinforced with classroom instruction.

English in Action:

At an additional cost, optional opportunities for community service engagements are available. Students have the opportunity to practice their English and interact with members of the local community, hence the term “English in Action”.

It generally runs for three weeks, after an orientation about the community sites during the first week.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Homestay arrangements will be made for participants. This will enable them to get a first-hand view of how Americans live. Breakfast is provided by host families. Lunch and dinner can be obtained in the college cafeteria or in restaurants on Staten Island and elsewhere at a reasonable cost. Kitchen privileges can be arranged with homestay placements. All homestays will be accessible to the college by public transportation. Four dinners a week in the homestays can be arranged for an additional cost.

TRANSPORTATION:

Participants will be met at Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) and driven to their homestay upon request. A fee of \$150 one-way will be applied. For participants taking a taxi, you will need to pay approximately \$80 - \$120 each way. Other local travel will be by public transportation on buses and trains. Buses and trains cost \$2.50 each way or \$5.00 for a round trip (cost subject to change). The Staten Island Ferry connecting Staten Island to Manhattan is free. A metro card for daily round-trip transportation for a month can be provided to each participant at \$112.00 (cost subject to change).

PROGRAM COST: \$3,500 per person

Includes:	Host family homestay	Cultural activities
	Breakfast	Field trips
	Tuition and text books	Medical insurance
	Administrative fee	