Conversation and Composition – F14

Professor Joseph Andrew Carrier

**Midterm Oral Exam Instructions**

**Prompts.**

* I will prepare a set of conversation prompts from the materials we have studied in Units 1-4. The students will select a prompt card at random from the set.
* Before the exam begins, the students will have one minute to discuss the question with their partner and the teacher to make sure they understand the prompt. The group will then begin the conversation portion of the exam.
* After the conversation portion of the exam I will also ask each student one or two questions from the lessons we covered during the semester.

**Assessment.**

* Assessment will be marked on the standard oral exam rubric I passed out in class.
* You will be given four minutes to have a conversation with your partner.
* During that time you should try to keep the conversation going without any long pauses. You are not allowed to have any paper or notes during the exam.
* The most important thing it to have an actual conversation, listening to your partner and asking them questions or making replies based on what they say. You are not required to stay on the topic of the prompt. I am more interested in seeing a natural conversation with spontaneous interaction. I do not want you to memorize a script and recite it to me. That is not conversation. Mistakes in grammar are less important than maintaining the flow of the conversation and the responses you make with your partner.
* Confidence is also very important. Speak clearly and confidently even if you make mistakes. It is more important to me that you show you are confident than that you be absolutely accurate. I will base my scoring on the amount of effort you show in preparation and presentation.
* Everyone in this class began the class with a different level of ability. It would be unfair to give one person a better grade simply because they have studied English longer before they took this class. I will be judging the exam based on the effort I see in the exam and in class preparation.
* After the test you are instructed to leave the testing area and not to communicate with anyone else from the class in the hallway, stairwell, or waiting area. Speaking to other students who have not taken the test will result in a grade of Zero for the exam.
* If you have any questions about the exam, please contact me after class or during office hours.