

EAP5835 Academic Spoken English 1
Spring 2014, M-F 9, W 8-9
MAT 3

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Course Description

EAP 5835 is a 04 credit course that meets four hours a week to practice the interpersonal and group communication skills needed within the culture of U.S. higher education. Special attention is paid to pronunciation, accent remediation, prosody, intonation, and fluency as well as to academic presentation skills. There is a weekly language lab component as well as regular academic presentations. This course is recommended for international graduate students who wish to make rapid progress in their oral fluency in English as well as improve some of the communication skills relevant for improved performance on an oral proficiency test (TOEFL-IBT/UF SPEAK test) and/or a teaching assignment.

Text

There is no textbook for this course. Handouts will be provided in class. Lecture slides and other materials will be posted on the class website, typically after the class in which they are used.

Requirements

- Weekly recordings
- Presentations
- Interviews

WEEKLY RECORDINGS: You have several opportunities to record yourself speaking English while focusing on a variety of topics. You will have to submit your recordings to the instructor via email. Many of these recordings can be done in the language lab during class. However, there will also be times where you will need to record yourself outside of class and send it in. To this end, you will need a computer/laptop with a microphone and internet connection. You can also use your smartphone if it records in .wav format.

In addition to weekly recordings, you will also have to call and leave a voice message on the instructor's Google Voice message box. This will give you the chance to practice speaking on the phone, and simulates a real-life situation you will certainly encounter as a student in Gainesville. More information will be given on these assignments during class.

PRESENTATIONS: You will give several short presentations throughout the class. The presentation topics will be related to you and your particular field of study. You will have to choose an academic article or study that interests you, and present the information in a way that non-experts can understand. You will have several opportunities to present this information, in order to refine your presentation skills. Your presentations will be in front of your classmates and instructors, and sometimes other native English speakers. These are chances for you to put your skills to the test. After your presentations, we will give you individualized feedback, so that you can continue to improve your communication skills.

INTERVIEWS: For some assignments, you will have to interview native English speakers. Many of these assignments will investigate how native English speakers use certain words or phrases, or how they use English to achieve certain goals. We believe that one of the most effective ways to learn a language is by using that language in authentic settings. The interviews are another opportunity for you to use English in a "real" setting. After you conduct your interviews, you will report to the class and share your findings.

Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation are essential. You are unlikely to do well in the course without attending, taking good notes, and being a part of the discussion. If you miss a class, you should review the lecture material, get notes from a classmate, and if necessary come discuss the material in office hours.

Grading

This course is pass/fail. If you participate in class and complete the assignments you are likely to pass, and you will likely see improvements in your English fluency.

General Advice

Improving your spoken English requires time, effort, and **practice**. Simply attending class and then speaking your native language for the rest of the day will not help you. You will need to practice at least 1 hour per day outside of class -- preferably in 5 - 10 minute intervals (i.e. 5 minutes X 12 practice sessions or 10 minutes X 6 practice sessions). You will be recorded and have many opportunities to get feedback and instruction. However, we can only open the door. **YOU** have to walk through it.

Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule of topics to be covered and the corresponding activities/assignments. Based on the needs of the class, the schedule may be subject to change.

Classes on Wednesday are **2 hours**. Note that we will be in the Language Lab (TUR1317) on most Fridays. These dates are marked (LL) on the schedule.

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS/ ACTIVITIES
1	1/7	Course Overview; Intro	Group Discussion
	1/9	Language Learning Strategies & Goals	
2	1/12	IPA – Vowel Sounds	Practice the sounds of English
	1/14	IPA – Consonant Sounds	Practice the sounds of English
	1/16 (LL)	How to use Praat to record yourself; IPA	Recording 1
3	1/19	<i>No Class: MLK Day</i>	
	1/21	IPA practice; Overview of Presentations	Find your target sounds
	1/23 (LL)	IPA Practice	Recording 2
4	1/26	Word Stress	Interview Assignment 1
	1/28	Word Stress in a TED talk	Discuss interview findings
	1/30 (LL)	Word Stress	Recording 3
5	2/2	Phrasal Stress	Word stress homework 1
	2/4	Phrasal Stress and Thought Groups	
	2/6 (LL)	Listen to and produce phrasal stress	Recording 4
6	2/9	Academic Presentations	Presentation 1
	2/11	Self-critique of Presentation 1, Thought Groups	
	2/13 (LL)	Thought Groups in TED talks	Recording 5
7	2/16	Using Focus in Thought Groups	
	2/18	Thought Groups in TED talks	
	2/20 (LL)	Academic Presentation 2 preparation	No recording
8	2/23	Academic Presentations	Presentation 2 – Group 2
	2/25	Self-critique of Presentation 2, Linking	
	2/27 (LL)	Linking & Reduction	Recording 6
9	3/2	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
	3/4	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
	3/6	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>	
10	3/9	Linking and Reduction	
	3/11	Linking and Reduction, Functions of Intonation	Interview Assignment 2
	3/13 (LL)	Intonation	Recording 7

11	3/16	Request Strategies	Identify strategies
	3/18	Practice Making Requests; Avoiding Questions	Roleplay
	3/20 (LL)	Disagreement Strategies	Recording 8
12	3/23	Refusal Strategies	Identify strategies
	3/25	Practice Refusing Invitations	Roleplay
	3/27 (LL)	Refusal & Avoidance Strategies	Recording 9
13	3/30	Instruction Strategies	Identifying instruction strategies in everyday English
	4/1	Instruction Strategies	
	4/3 (LL)	Instruction Strategies	Identifying instruction strategies in academic English
14	4/6	Instruction Strategies	
	4/8	Instruction Strategies; TED Talk project intro	
	4/10 (LL last time)	TED Talks- Mirroring	Recording 10; choose a TED talk
15	4/13	TED Mirroring Practice	Mirroring Practice
	4/15	TED Mirroring Practice	Mirroring Practice – Small Groups
	4/17	TED Mirroring Practice	Mirroring Practice – Small Groups
16	4/20	TED Presentations	TED Presentations
	4/22	TED Presentations, Class Wrap-Up	TED Presentations
	4/24	<i>No Class – Reading Day</i>	