

University of Florida
English Language Institute
EAP 5836 – Spring C 2023

Class Section	Class Times/Locations	Instructor	Office	Email/Phone
EAP 5836-2864	Tu 11:45am-1:40pm MAT 0010	Maya Shastri	MAT 221	mshastri@ufl.edu (352) 392-2070

Office Hours

- Tuesdays 1:40-2:40pm and by appointment

Course Description

The course is designed to familiarize international teaching assistants (ITAs) with academic culture in the US and to help develop specific language skills and interaction strategies needed for effective instruction and communication in an academic setting in the US.

Course Objectives

- To increase awareness of cross-cultural differences in educational settings
- To practice presentation skills that are important to classroom instruction
- To develop cross-cultural communication skills and intercultural competence
- To increase awareness of American culture affecting the classroom and students
- To improve communication for instructional purposes, including listening and speaking
- To improve oral fluency

Recommended Text

- Gorsuch, et. al., English Communication for International Teaching Assistants, 2nd Edition, (not required)

Course Prerequisites

The course has 2 prerequisites:

1) Participants must be international students with the following language test scores:

- TOEFL iBT Speaking Section: 23-27
- Or SPEAK: 45-50

2) Participants must be teaching for the first time at UF with contact hours with undergraduate students (lecturing, discussion sessions, lab sessions, Zoom office hours, etc.)

Method

This course has three basic components:

1. Seminar - The seminar meets weekly for two consecutive periods. The seminar will address issues of language, culture, and pedagogy. You will have speaking assignments to do during class time or at home as a recording.

2. Individual observation and feedback –Your instructor (or another EAP 5836 observer) will visit and record the class you are teaching. Most students will be observed 2 times during the semester, but your teacher may opt for more or fewer observations. Your teacher/observer will review your teaching video and will meet with you one-on-one to discuss strengths and weaknesses noted during the observation. Individual needs in areas such as pronunciation, grammar, fluency, and clarity will be addressed in the conferences.

3. Final Project and Self-evaluation - From your teaching videos throughout the semester, you will identify and time stamp important features of classroom communication (which we will identify during the semester) that you have performed proficiently, and you will write a reflection. Your final project is used when representatives of your department want to review your teaching, evaluate your language skills, and determine whether you need further coursework in English.

There is no final exam in this course, and students do not need to take the SPEAK test again.

Assignments

Assignments are meant to either practice speaking in an instructional or academic capacity or to reflect on the effectiveness of communication strategies.

- Presentation of course material, like the syllabus, with an audience (**by week 4, in class**)
- Observation of another instructor in your field teaching undergraduates (if possible, someone teaching the same class as you) with a reflection on communication strategies (**by week 6, due in e-learning**)
- Mid-term evaluation in your own TA course with your reflection on the responses focusing on communication (**by week 8, due in e-learning**)
- One of the following presentations with an audience--TBA (**presented in class—weeks 12-13, in class**):
 - Prosody projects
 - Presentation with instructional language (defining cultural concept, using visuals to explain concepts, and/or teaching a process)
 - Presentation with field-specific content
- Final project: review and self-evaluation of one's own teaching tapes (**by week 15, due in e-learning**)

Grades and Transcript

The course is graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). A grade of Satisfactory (S)* will be based on the following grading system.

Description	Requirements
Class attendance is required to achieve a grade of Satisfactory.	Three unexcused absences from class can result in a grade of Unsatisfactory.
Attendance for the one-on-one feedback sessions is required to achieve a grade of Satisfactory.	Missing one session can result in a grade of Unsatisfactory. Notify me (or your observer) well in advance of your session if you need to reschedule.
Completion of 4/5 assignments is required for a grade of Satisfactory.	Failure to complete the final project can result in a grade of Unsatisfactory. Failure to complete 3/4 of the other assignments can result in a grade of Unsatisfactory.

EAP 5836 does not count toward a graduate degree. However, it is a University of Florida graduate class, listed in the catalog and eligible for fee waiver. *EAP 5836 appears on the academic transcript.*

**A grade of S does not guarantee exemption from further classes in English, nor does it ensure future teaching assistantships. Your department and the Graduate School make these decisions. They will take into consideration the EAP 5836 final evaluation.*

UF attendance policies are available

here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Information on the UF Grading System is available here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx - hgrades>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>) by providing appropriate documentation. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluation of Instructors/Course

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources:

- Health and Wellness
 - UGIFT International Initiatives is a diverse team of campus service providers to help international students. They provide consultation, present workshops, identify needs and challenges particular to international students, ensure cross-departmental communication, champion initiatives, and support students in need.
<https://counseling.ufl.edu/outreach/international/>
 - U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
 - Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
 - Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
 - University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
 - UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
 - GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

- Academic Resources
 - Dial Center Public Speaking Lab: <https://cwoc.ufl.edu/public-speaking-lab-2/>
 - Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
 - Center for Teaching Excellence: <https://teach.ufl.edu/>
 - Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>
 - E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
 - Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
 - Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

Course Outline

Discussion topics are flexible. Let me know if there is something you want to discuss within the scope of the course.

	Due Dates	General Discussion Topics
Week 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Overview and General Introduction The Importance of Names The First Day of Class
2	Assignment: Presenting Course Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of a "Good" Teacher, Cross-cultural perspectives What do American Students Want from their Teachers?
3	Student presentations: the syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructional Language: Before Class—Small Talk
4	Student presentations: the syllabus Give observation assignment Begin TA observations and feedback-sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructional Language: Beginning of Class—Agenda The (Unspoken) Importance of International Students in the US Classroom
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions as a Teaching Tool Developing a Mid-term Evaluation
6	Observation Assignment is due in learning TAs should give midterm evaluation to students and complete the response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation and Fluency Interaction as a Teaching Tool Prosody - The Music of Language
7	TAs should give midterm evaluation to students and complete the response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosody Testing & Grading / Academic Honesty Instructional Language: Clarifying, Agreeing, and Disagreeing
8	Midterm evaluation assignment is due in learning Give presentation assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosody Negotiation & Persuasion Classroom Management Language and Skills
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-Cultural Teaching: Lectures vs. Collaborative Learning vs. Active Learning Organizing Information & Making Connections Idioms and Slang on the University Campus
10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Interactive Lecture Instructional Language: Handling Student Questions
11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The American Undergraduate Meaning Beyond Words
12	Student presentations: TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity & Gender Equity Surprises in Teaching, Language for Unexpected Moments
13	Student presentations: TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging Participation Through Discussion
14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspectives on American Culture Getting Involved on Campus
15	Final Project and Self-evaluation due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflections on the Semester

