

## ALI 242: PRONUNCIATION WORKSHOP (3 units) COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2013

**Instructor:** Viktoria Byczkiewicz Cutler  
**Office Telephone:** (213) 740-8309  
**ALI Dept. Telephone:** (213) 740-0079

**E-mail:** [byczkiew@usc.edu](mailto:byczkiew@usc.edu)  
**Office Location:** JEF-116  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The **Pronunciation Workshop** is designed to help non-native speakers of American English improve their pronunciation using a variety of techniques. A selection of materials and techniques drawn from applied linguistics, phonetics, psychology, and the performing arts stimulate a raised awareness of various patterns and meanings in North American English (NAE). Students engage in communicative listening and speaking activities, produce audio recordings, and prepare short presentations. Students are required to independently work on the audio component of the course and to participate in the ALI's Conversation Partners program or, for ITA's, the uSC program. Regular listening and speaking practice outside of the classroom are crucial to making progress toward the goal of speaking NAE more clearly and thereby engaging in increasingly comfortable and fulfilling oral communications in academic, professional, and social encounters.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

*By the end of this course, students should:*

- ◆ Have developed an understanding of individual pronunciation targets
- ◆ Be able to effectively self-monitor speech production and make appropriate corrections
- ◆ Demonstrate a basic understanding of vowel and consonant sound production with a focus on improving individual problem areas related to first language interference
- ◆ Demonstrate competency in reading a phonemic alphabet and habitually consult a dictionary to verify accurate pronunciation
- ◆ Understand fundamental patterns of stress, rhythm, and intonation in North American English
- ◆ Feel increased confidence about their intelligibility when speaking in a variety of settings

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- ◆ Dauer, Rebecca M. (1993). *Accurate English*. Prentice-Hall.
- ◆ An English-English dictionary. Recommended: *Collins COBUILD Advanced Dictionary of American English*. Glasgow, UK: HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN 13: 978-1-4240-0363-1
- ◆ Ability to create sound files (mp3) for submission to Blackboard.
- ◆ Small to medium-sized mirror, to bring to class regularly.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- \* Homework: Timely completion of daily and weekly assignments, including practice using the audio component as posted on Blackboard.
- \* Midterm and Final Exam: Audio recordings, presentation, and performance.
- \* Course Website: Go to [www.blackboard.usc.edu](http://www.blackboard.usc.edu). All recorded assignments are to be submitted to the Blackboard's digital dropbox. Homework assignments are detailed and updated on Blackboard in addition to being announced in class.

# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
*American Language Institute*

## **International Teaching Assistant (ITA)-specific Requirements**

Participation in the ITA ~ uSC Program:

The “uSC” (Undergraduate Student Consultant) Program offers an opportunity to practice English with a native speaker outside the classroom. ITAs are assigned a “uSC” with whom they meet outside of class two hours per week, starting week 4, for a total of 20 hours. The program offers a chance to work on teaching skills, fluency, slang, pronunciation, conversation, or any other areas related to interaction with native speakers.

### **ITA OBSERVATIONS**

All ITAs with teaching duties (whether leading a lab or discussion, or holding office hours) will be observed at least once during the semester. The observation will be video-recorded for evaluation and follow-up consultation with the instructor.

### **ITA EXIT EXAMINATION**

To qualify for the ITA exam at the end of the semester, students must complete all course-related assignments, attend all meetings with their uSC (undergraduate Student Consultant), and comply with ALI policy on absences as indicated above. Absences include hours missed with the uSC and missed appointments with the instructor. Any necessary make-up meetings with the uSC must be held prior to the ITA Exit Exam date.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Homework. Late homework is unacceptable.** With documentation of a legitimate excuse, credit for late work may be considered. Students must adequately complete all assignments in order to pass the course or risk a grade of No Credit. Chronically late homework submissions will result in No Credit and the course will have to be repeated.

### **Attendance and Punctuality.**

Students are expected to attend every class. If a class is missed, the work must be completed for the missed class, plus the subsequent class. It is imperative that students come prepared to class regardless of a prior absence, and it is the student’s responsibility to keep current with assignments by consulting the syllabus, the course website, and classmates. Participation in class is dependent on the completion of homework, so always come prepared.

**Be on time to class. Arriving late to class counts as absence in real time.** In accordance with ALI policy, if absences exceed 4 sessions of class time, no credit can be given for the course. Chronic tardiness counts cumulatively toward absenteeism. Mandatory conferences with the instructor are scheduled as equivalent to one class session (or 1.5 hours) and if such conference is missed, the absence will be reflected on the attendance record.

## **CLASS CONDUCT**

Kindly observe the following guidelines:

- Please turn off or silence cell phones before coming to class. Text messaging is not allowed.
- Please, no eating during class time.
- There is no break during ALI 242. Please take this into consideration with respect to conducting personal business.

# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
*American Language Institute*

- Lengthy adjournments during class time (leaving class and not returning within a reasonable period of time) may be counted as absence.
- Always demonstrate courtesy and respect toward all classmates and the instructor. This includes being on time to class. If a student's behavior is interpreted as harassing or threatening to anyone, s/he will be referred to the appropriate campus authorities.

**Communication.** Students are required to activate and utilize their USC e-mail accounts for communications with the instructor and classmates. Students are responsible for checking their e-mail on a regular basis and responding to messages related to the course in a timely manner.

**Course Website.** The course website can be found at <https://blackboard.usc.edu>. Use the website to find announcements, check for updates on homework assignments, listen to audio homework, submit digital sound files to the assignments box, and to locate classmates' email addresses.

**Students with Disabilities.** Any student requiring accommodation based on a disability is required to register with the Disability Services and Programs (DSP) office each semester. A letter of verification for the approved recommendations can be obtained through DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. DSP's telephone number is (213) 740-0776.

**Proficiency in English.** The ability to communicate effectively in English – to read, write and speak the language fluently – is vital to your success as a university student. USC graduate applicants are therefore expected to demonstrate English-language proficiency as part of the application process. (Retrieved January 13, 2013 from <http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/englishproficiency.html>)

**Note to Undergraduate Students:** Academic success in the United States depends on your ability to communicate effectively in English. A degree from USC signifies that the holder has achieved the proficiency in English that is required for professional and academic endeavors. (See USC's UG admissions website.)

# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
*American Language Institute*

## WEEKLY OUTLINE ~ ALI 242

Week 1 January 15 & 17	Course Introduction, Listening and Speech diagnostic samples Student Questionnaire Introduction to Suprasegmentals
Week 2 January 22 & 24	Overview and Practice: Thought Groups/Pause Structure; Focus Words and Sentence-level Stress Read: <i>AE</i> , Ch. 1 & 2
Week 3 January 29 & 31	Suprasegmentals: Major rise and fall; pitch; content vs function words <i>AE</i> , Ch. 5: IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) and Transcription Ch. 12 & 15 ~ Consonants
Week 4 February 5 & 7	<i>Instructor-Student Conferences</i> (speech diagnostic review and analysis) Continued Practice of IPA Ch. 3, 4, and 13 ~ Vowels, vowel length, and voicing
Week 5 February 12 & 14	<i>AE</i> , Ch. 6 & 10 – Word Stress; Compound Nouns
Week 6 February 19 & 21	Continued work on word stress, vowels and consonants
Week 7 February 26 & 28	<b>Midterm Examination</b> <i>AE</i> , Ch. 14 ~ <ed> and <s/z> endings Continued work on vowels and consonants
Week 8 March 5 & 7	Focused articulation practice as needed; continued work on word stress <i>AE</i> , Ch. 7 – Word Stress / Prefixes and Suffixes
Week 9 March 12 & 14	Continued work on consonants, vowels, endings, and word stress
	<i>SPRING BREAK: March 18 - 22</i>
Week 10 March 26 & 28	Ch. 8 ~ Rhythm & Linking
Week 11 April 2 & 4	Ch. 9 - Rhythm & Linking
Week 12 April 9 & 11	Continued integrated practice
Week 13 April 16 & 18	Review and integration of key targets
Week 14 April 23 & 25	Course Wrap-up Oral Presentation Practice / Review and integration of key targets
Week 15 April 30	<b>Final Oral Presentation</b>

**Note:** *This course outline is an approximation and subject to revision by the instructor at any time. Detailed assignments are not included here. It is the student's responsibility to check the course Blackboard Announcements page for postings or updates on daily or weekly assignments, and to take note of assignments given in class.*