ALI 242: PRONUNCIATION WORKSHOP (2 units)
COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2014, Section 10139
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.

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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 stimulates a raised awareness of various sounds and patterns 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 (on Blackboard) and to participate in the ALI's Conversation Partners program or, for ITAs, the uSC Program. Regular listening and speaking practice outside of the classroom is 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 actively use a high-quality dictionary to verify accurate the pronunciation of words
♦ 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.[1]
    ♦ 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
    ∗ <u>Homework</u>: Timely completion of daily and weekly assignments, including listening to the audio portion as posted on Blackboard.
    ∗ <u>Midterm and Final Exam</u>: Audio recordings, presentation, and overall performance.
    ∗ <u>Participation in Conversation Partners or (for ITAs) the uSC Program</u>.

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[1] Students must purchase the hard copy of the course textbook and bring it to each class session. The textbook also functions as a workbook. Pirated online versions are illegal and thus not permitted. Students may face a potential violation of academic integrity for downloading such illegal material.

* Course Website. Go to 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. (These details vary according to the needs of the particular students enrolled in each course so are typically not included on the course syllabus.)

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 work 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. In order to make progress on improving accuracy in pronunciation, regular – preferably, daily – practice is needed. Thus completing homework and reviewing material on time is essential to success in ALI 242.

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. (Please exchange information with classmates and use the "buddy system" to obtain info regarding anything missed.) Participation in class is dependent on the completion of homework, so always come prepared.

Be on time to class. *Arriving significantly late to class counts as absence in real time*. In accordance with ALI policy, if a student misses over six (6) hours of class time for a 2-unit class, no credit can be given for the course. Repeated lateness counts cumulatively toward absence from class. Mandatory

conferences with the instructor are considered 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.

Professionalism. Keep a three-ring binder for all course handouts, as handouts will be provided in class on a regular basis. Students are required to bring all materials to class each session.

CLASS CONDUCT

Kindly observe the following guidelines:
- Cell phone use is prohibited during class. Please turn off or silence cell phones before entering the classroom. Text messaging is not allowed. Step outside if you need to make or receive an important call.
- Please, no eating during class time.
- Lengthy adjournments during class time (leaving class and not returning within a reasonable period of time) will be counted as absence.
- Always demonstrate courtesy and respect toward all classmates and the instructor. 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 email 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. All instructor email will be sent to students' USC email accounts, to which students may forward mail to another account of their choice if that is their preference.

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, and submit digital sound files to the assignments box.

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.)

WEEKLY OUTLINE ~ ALI 242, Section 10139 (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.)

Week 1: 8/26 & 8/28	Course Introduction, Listening and Speech diagnostic samples Student Questionnaire Listening Diagnostic due in class 8/28 Pause Structure (Thought Groups) and Pacing **Homework:** Submit Diagnostic Speech Samples to Blackboard by Fri., August 29th (end of day)
Week 2: 9/2 & 9/4	Read *AE,* Ch. 1 & 2 *AE*, Ch. 5: IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) and Transcription **Vocabulary Logs** (introduction to this assignment)
Week 3: 9/9 & 9/11	*AE*, Ch. 12 & 13 – Introduction to consonant production and voicing Continued review of IPA Group Projects (in-class planning on 9/11) Audio Homework A, v1 due 9/14, end of day
Week 4: 9/16 & 9/18	*AE*, Ch. 3 & 4 – Vowels and vowel length *Instructor-Student Conferences* (speech diagnostic review and analysis) – note that some conferences will be scheduled outside of class time. Conferences take place in the instructor's office – JEF 116
Week 5: 9/23 & 9/25	Group Project presentations in class *AE*, Ch. 14 – <ed> and <s/z> endings Consonant practice as needed Audio Recording Homework B v1 due 9/26, end of day
Week 6: 9/30 & 10/2	Focused articulation practice and review, per students' needs Continued work with endings, vowels, and consonants
Week 7: 10/7 & 10/9	**Midterm Presentations (10/9)** **Written and Audio Midterm Examination** Submit Conversation Partners Attendance Confirmation
Week 8: 10/14 & 10/16	Vocabulary Logs due *AE*, Ch. 6 & 10 – Word Stress *AE*, Ch. 7 – Word Stress / Prefixes and Suffixes Audio Recording Homework C, v1 due 10/19, end of day
Week 9: 10/21 & 10/23	Continued practice with targeted consonants, vowels, final sounds, consonant clusters, and word stress patterns *Consultations*
Week 10: 10/28 & 10/30	Focused integrated and communicative practice
Week 11: 11/4 & 11/6	Ch. 8 & 9 - Rhythm & Linking Final presentation practice Audio Recording Homework D, v1 due 11/1, end of day
Week 12: 11/11 & 11/13	*AE*, Ch. 8 & 9 – continued practice with linking, rhythm, and poetry *AE*, Ch. 16, Intonation (time permitting)
Week 13: 11/18 & 11/20	Final Presentation Practice Review and integration of key targets or challenging features **Course Wrap-up**
Week 14: 11/25	**Final Presentations** Final Self-Reflection and Evaluation with Audio Reflection due 11/28
Week 15: 12/2	**Instructor-Student Consultations**

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. If a class is missed, check with a classmate.*