



ALI 254 — *ADVANCED ORAL SKILLS*

American Language Institute — Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. James Polk

Email: jamespol@usc.edu Office phone: (213) 740-8435

Office hours: By appointment

Office location: PSD106J

Course Objectives

As emphasized in USC's general statements for international students:

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.”

[<http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/english.html>]

ALI 254 courses have been designed for students who have already attained a fairly high level of proficiency in spoken English. The primary goals of this course are to further students' oral English skills, particularly in the following areas:

- pronunciation, intonation, and stress-timing
- grammatical accuracy
- register / word choice and word form
- fluency
- oral discourse management

- presentation skills
- discussion strategies
- hedging devices

By the end of the course, students will have a much better understanding of these areas and hopefully demonstrate improved performance in each.

Course Format

Each class will consist of a combination of discussions and focused practice activities that target any problem areas outlined above. The course will also include opportunities for students to practice their job interview and presentation skills in an academic context.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the basis of both their individual performance and their participation in group discussions.

This is a CREDIT / NO-CREDIT class, which means that you will not receive a final letter grade on your USC transcript.

Attendance Policy

Students should be punctual and attend every class. Students who miss a class must contact another classmate — not their instructor — to find out about assignments they've missed. If a student misses more than ten hours of class, NO CREDIT will be given for the course. In addition, students who come to class more than ten minutes late will be marked absent for one hour.

Academic Conduct:

PLAGIARISM — presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words — is an extremely serious academic offense with very serious consequences.

Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards:

https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/files/2015/11/SCampus-Final-112015_v8.pdf

Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct:

<http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>

Students who plagiarize any section of any presentation will automatically receive a NO PASS grade. In addition, a NEGATIVE REPORT will be sent to the office of Judicial Affairs.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity:

<http://equity.usc.edu>

or to the Department of Public Safety:

<http://dps.usc.edu/contact>

This is important for the safety of the entire USC community.

Another member of the university community—such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member—can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person.

The Center for Women and Men:

<http://engemannshc.usc.edu/cwm>

provides 24/7 confidential support, and the Sexual Assault Resource Center webpage:

<https://sarc.usc.edu>

describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems:

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute, <http://ali.usc.edu/>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international students.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs:

<http://dsp.usc.edu>

provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information:

<http://emergency.usc.edu>

will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations based on a disability is required to register with the Disability Services and Programs office (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved recommendations can be obtained through DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from:

0900 - 1700, M–F. The DSP phone number is: 213-740-0776

DO NOT USE CELL PHONES in the classroom out of respect for your peers and your instructor.

The Learning Experience

Our overall goal is to help you communicate to the best of your ability. With this in mind, we hope you will consider the learning process itself as important as the final result. An integral part of this process is learning from mistakes – where there are no mistakes, there is likely no activity taking place. Students should not fear making errors but rather welcome them as another chance to learn and experience the language and culture.

Please note that a common trend in higher education today involves “flipping” the classroom. This means that much of the reading and writing normally required for classes will be done in the student’s own time at home or place of study, and that much of the class time will be used for discussion and interaction.

Active Participation Is Required!

We hope that you will enjoy and profit from the interaction taking place between both students and instructors and students among themselves. In the end, we all learn from each other.

Welcome to ALI 254 and enjoy the time you spend with your colleagues in active communication!

Recommended Course Materials:

Collins resources in applied linguistics available at:

<http://www.collinslanguage.com/language-resources/>