

**ALI 234**  
**Advanced Intermediate Oral Skills**

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Office hours: Mon - Thurs 1:00pm  
-2:00pm

**USC'S UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT:** According to the University, "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."<sup>1</sup>

**PREREQUISITES:** Students are placed into ALI 234 based on the results of the International Student English (ISE) Exam<sup>2</sup> or a previous ALI oral skills course.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to help you meet the above requirement by improving your oral communication skills. More specifically, you will work on

- fluency
- clearer pronunciation
- grammatical accuracy
- listening comprehension
- vocabulary use
- cultural awareness

These language skills will be addressed in the process of doing various academic communicative activities, such as

- leading and participating in discussions
- pronunciation exercises
- role-playing /shadowing
- participating in individual and/or group presentations
- listening to informational and entertainment segments relating to American culture

**COURSE MATERIALS:** In addition to handouts, which will be posted on Blackboard, the following are the texts we will be using in class:

- Chase. *American Language Institute 234 (CUSTOM)(USC)*. (Required)  
**ISBN:** 9781337917636
- Grant. *Well Said*. (Recommended)  
**ISBN:** 9781305641365

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<sup>1</sup> English Proficiency. Office of Graduate Admissions: English Proficiency. Retrieved on August 16, 2018, from <https://gradadm.usc.edu/lightboxes/international-students-english-proficiency/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali/ise/>



**ASSESSMENT:**

- Pronunciation Listening Assessments
- Comprehension and Grammar Listening Assessments
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Role playing/ shadowing

Please note: This is a credit/no credit (CR/NC) class, which means that you will not receive a final letter grade (A/B/C/F) on your USC transcript. Since this is a proficiency-based course designed to help improve your oral skills, your proficiency in these oral skills at the end of the course determines whether you will be advised to take an additional class or not. Therefore, it is in your own interest to do your best to participate fully in every assignment.

**MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:** The [5 assessments](#) listed above will take place during week 1 & 2, 6 & 7, and 12 & 13 of classes (3 times total). These assessments are not cumulative, only the last assessments (weeks 12 & 13) will determine your final grade. The other assessments will be used to help determine what areas you need to work on in order to successfully complete the course. Details on each of these assignments/assessments will be provided during the semester.

**CONFERENCING AND OFFICE HOURS:** During the semester I will be meeting with you individually to discuss your progress and strategize with you to help you reach your personal goals in English communication. In addition, please feel free to stop by during my office if you have any questions or would like additional help.

**ALI ATTENDANCE POLICY:** More than **3** hours of absence will be reported to the ALI student advisor. More than **6** hours of absence will result in a course grade of **NC** (no credit). Absence is counted for *any* reason, including illness, emergencies, and conference attendance. (Athletes, please note that a written excuse for absence due to competitions must be filed with the ALI Student Advisor.)

**TARDINESS POLICY:** Attending class on time is important since tardiness is an inconvenience to your classmates. Coming to class late will also count towards the number of hours missed.

**CLASSROOM COURTESY:** As a courtesy to your classmates and teacher, please refrain from chit-chat when others are talking. Use of technology (e.g., smart phones, tablets, laptops) is permissible when looking up information or checking the definition of a word; however, text-messaging is distracting and takes your attention from class discussion, so it is forbidden during class. Also, while it is understandably easier to speak your native language to others from your home country, this can be uncomfortable to others in the class who don't speak your language and certainly defeats the purpose of being in an

English class, so please use English only in the classroom.

**HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY SPEAKING SKILLS?:** Most of you have already studied English for many years, and you have a great deal of passive knowledge; in other words, you know a lot of grammar and vocabulary, but you just have a difficult time using it fluently. In this class, we will give you information and practice to help you improve your pronunciation, intonation, and fluency, but without lots of practice outside of class, you will not see much improvement. One cannot play piano or basketball by just learning about the instrument or sport; hours and hours of practice are necessary. The same is true about language learning. Just physically being in the US will not improve your English (there are people who have lived in Los Angeles for over 20 years who can hardly speak English). If you really want to improve your English communication skills while you are at USC, make sure you are using English the majority of the time you are speaking. Do your best to find opportunities to converse with others in English, even other non-native speakers of English.

Other sources/Apps: Duolingo, Elevate, Illuminate, Google Voice/Siri, Rachel's English (YouTube Channel), ALI Conversation Groups (details TBA).

### **Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

Plagiarism—presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words—is a serious academic offense with 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](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/>.

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 whole 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.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention & Services, <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/counseling-services/>, offers counseling free of charge, and the Title IX Office webpage, <https://titleix.usc.edu>,

describes reporting options and other resources.

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.