

## **ALI 234 - Intermediate Oral Skills**

**Spring, 2019**

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Office hours: by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The University believes that English proficiency is an integral part of a student's degree: "The ability to communicate effectively in English-to read, write and speak the language fluently-is vital to your success as a university student, and may also serve as a vital tool in your future academic and professional success. USC graduate students are therefore expected to demonstrate proficiency in English at all levels of graduate study."<sup>1</sup>

This is a 2-unit course in which students work on listening and speaking skills needed to succeed in the academic environment at USC. Activities and objectives include:

- Activities to develop listening & note-taking skills.
- Pronunciation activities to improve individual sounds, rhythm, and phrasal intonation.
- Assignments that help students participate in discussions, ask questions, and give presentations.
- Units and lessons that cover specific language issues (grammar, vocabulary, register) which are often problematic for non-native speakers of English.
- Homework assignments that will help students improve their vocabulary, increase their awareness of the amount of time they speak English, and motivate them to become more responsible for their own learning.

**COURSE MATERIALS:** If you want, you may purchase the following textbook and bring it to class:

Williams, Julia (2010). *Academic Connections 4*. White Plains, NY: Pearson Education, Inc. (ISBN 0-13-233841-6 or 978-0-13-233841-7)

**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 must file a written excuse for absences due to competitions with the ALI Student Advisor.

**TARDINESS POLICY:** Arriving on time is important since tardiness disrupts the class; therefore, arriving late will also count towards the number of hours missed.

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<sup>1</sup> Proficiency in English. University of Southern California Graduate Admissions: International Students. Retrieved on August 23, 2012, from <http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/english.html>

**ASSESSMENT:** Because this is a credit/no credit (CR/NC) class, it will not affect one's GPA.

Assignments are given to prepare for and/or practice material that is covered in the textbook and in class. Since this is a proficiency-based course designed to help improve students' academic listening and speaking skills, one's proficiency in these skills at the end of the course determines whether or not a student will need an additional class.

#### **FOR PHD STUDENTS ONLY:**

Upon completion of ALI 234, some students will move on to ALI 244 (High Intermediate Oral Skills). However, students who show minimal improvement in their listening and speaking skills may be required to retake ALI 234. In other words, even if a student receives credit for ALI 234 for doing all the assignments, he or she may be required to retake ALI 234 or take an additional oral skills class if his/her speaking level does not meet ALI's standard for release. Therefore, it is in a student's own interest to do his/her best on each assignment and to take every opportunity to speak English every day. Simply attending class and putting minimal effort into assignments is rarely enough to improve significantly; it will take diligent effort. **Very few students make significant progress if they spend most of their time speaking their native language.**

#### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

- 2 Exams (15% each) - No make-ups will be allowed.
- 2 Presentations (20% each)
- Group Discussions (20%) - No make-ups will be allowed for leaders who are absent the day of their discussion. Half of the grade is based on participant's contribution to weekly discussions.
- Participation & Homework (10%)

Note that, for graduate students to receive credit for the course, they must have the equivalent of at least a B (80%), and undergraduates must have the equivalent of at least a C+ (77%). Students who have a documented illness that prevents them from completing assignments after Week 12 will receive an Incomplete (for more detail, see <http://www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/grades/gradinghandbook/gradingpolicies.html#Definitions of Grades and Marks>).

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Martin Luther King's Birthday	Mon	January 21
President's Day	Mon	February 18
Spring Recess	Sun-Sun	March 10-17

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** ALI and USC are very diligent in keeping students honest about their work. Therefore, ANY form of academic dishonesty, from copying another writer's work, to improperly paraphrasing or citing a source, to getting outside assistance that leads to "substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style," can have serious consequences on one's status at USC.<sup>2</sup> For information on how to avoid plagiarism, see <http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student requiring accommodation 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 and should be delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. For more information, see [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html).

**CLASSROOM COURTESY:** As a courtesy to the class, students must use English at all times, and cell phones should be turned off.

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<sup>2</sup> University Governance: 11.00 Behavior Violating University Standards and Appropriate Sanctions. SCampus Student Guidebook. Retrieved on January 3, 2013, from <http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>