ALI 244
Advanced Intermediate Oral Skills

Instructor: Richard Jones
Office: PSD 106R
Email: jonesric@usc.edu
Office hours: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:00
Class Time: M/W 8:30-9:50
Classroom: THH 219

USC’S UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT: According to the University, “academic success in the United States depends on your ability to communicate effectively in English,”¹ and the “ability to communicate effectively in English—to read, write and speak the language fluently—is vital to your success as a university student.”²

PREREQUISITES: Students are placed into ALI 244 based on the results of the International Student English (ISE) Exam³ 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

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

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

- leading and participating in discussions and role-playing
- giving individual and group presentations
- conducting and participating in interviews
- participating in group and individual projects
- listening to informational segments regarding current events and issues

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


³ http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali/ise/
**ASSESSMENT:**
- Individual and Group Presentations
- Listening Assessments (incl. dictation and listening comprehension questions)

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:** There will be several major assignments over the course.

- New Product Presentation/Presentation topic of your choice: Final individual presentation.
- Mock Job Interview Students will sit for interviews and interview other students in mock job interviews to practice business communication skills.
- Group Discussion on Conversation Tips
- Group Survey Project

Additional details on each assignment will be provided during the semester.

**CONFERENCE 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.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** ALI and USC are very diligent in keeping students honest about their work. Copying another writer’s work, improperly paraphrasing or citing a source, and getting “editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style” constitute academic dishonesty and can have serious consequences on your status as a student at USC.4

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**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. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me 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 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: Duolinguo, Elevate, Illuminate, Google Voice/Siri, Rachel’s English (YouTube Channel), ALI Conversation Groups (details TBA).
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<th>Topics and Activities</th>
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<td>Course and Student Introductions Partner interviews</td>
<td>Self review of video</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Identifying the main point/Identifying multiple viewpoints Review of Evaluation Sheets</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 2 Work on first PowerPoint</td>
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<td>First PowerPoint Presentations TED Talk Conversations</td>
<td>Unit 2 Continued Showing Interest TED Talk resources on Blackboard</td>
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<td>Finish Ted Talk Conversation Begin USC Village Project Asking for and Giving Opinions</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 7 Emphasis USC Village resources on Blackboard</td>
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<td>USC Village project continued Group Presentations</td>
<td>Unit 7 Continued Numbers and Supporting Details</td>
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<td>Workplace skills: vocabulary/discussion</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 3 Body Language</td>
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<td>Workplace skills: Interviewing</td>
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<td>Midterm (Mock Interviews)</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 5 Following up on information</td>
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<td>Finish Mock interviews. Begin Academic Discussion</td>
<td>Unit 5 Continued Thought Groups</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<td>Academic skills: Confirming/Listening</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 4 Stress in Multi-syllable words</td>
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<td>Begin Work on Final presentations: Narrowing your topic</td>
<td>Unit 4 Continued Stress in lists and longer phrases Phrasal Verbs</td>
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<td>Work on Final Presentations</td>
<td>21st Century Unit 8 Information on slides</td>
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<td>Final Presentations in Class</td>
<td>Unit 8 Continued Listening for facts and opinions Comparison and Contrast</td>
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<td>Final Presentations continued</td>
<td>Review of key listening and pronunciation items.</td>
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