



ALI 271

Language Tutorial for International Teaching Assistants

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course objectives

By the end of ALI-271 students will have...

- increased their understanding of the language, demands, and expectations of their students.
- improved their ability to interact in English, in and outside of the classroom.
- become sensitized to their language and pronunciation problems and developed strategies to address such challenges.
- developed their ability to effectively present information in front of an audience.
- gained a greater awareness of American cultural patterns.

Course Information

ALI 271 is an individualized language tutorial for ITAs. At the beginning of the semester, students will engage in diagnostic activities with the instructor in order to develop their language goals and a plan for accomplishing them. The remainder of the semester will be dedicated to accomplishing these goals through individual tutorials and observations (if the ITA is teaching). The instructor will observe and videotape the ITA performing his/her teaching duties, at various times during the semester. ITAs will evaluate their performance during these observations by completing the Self Evaluation Form on Blackboard and discuss feedback with the instructor. Each observation will receive instructor feedback and support in the areas of language and communication skills.

Materials:

Various handouts, observation forms, online documents.

Grading:

ALI 271 is graded on a credit/no credit basis. To receive credit for ALI 271, students must attend all meetings with the instructor, do assignments as assigned by the instructor, and successfully complete all projects, as described below.

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Course Components

Observations

- Each student with teaching duties will be observed in his/her classroom/lab during the semester. The exact number of observations as well as the observation dates will be determined by the instructor.
- All observations will be video-recorded and uploaded to Blackboard for evaluation by the student and instructor.
- After each observation recording, students must watch their observation video online and complete a self evaluation form prior to receiving instructor feedback.
- Assignments (including a possible observation of another TA) will be given to the student based on the evaluation of the observation or in-class presentations.
- When the *instructor conducts an observation*, this observation takes the place of an individual meeting with the instructor for that week; therefore, **if an observation occurs one week, the meeting with the instructor will not occur until the following week.**

Audio Journals

Throughout the semester, students will submit audio journals, approximately five minutes in length, summarizing events, activities, and/or experiences from the previous seven days. The audio recordings will be submitted to Blackboard Assignments and reviewed by your instructor, for feedback on language, pronunciation and fluency. Other audio recordings will include texts of articles or TED talks on innovations in students' fields or other field-related material.

Presentations

Students will present various concepts or terms related to their fields of study and/or to the course content they are teaching. Presentations will be recorded for self and instructor evaluation.

uSC meetings

You will meet with your own undergraduate Student Consultant (uSC) two hours a week, beginning week 4 until the end of the (ALI) semester. The uSC program offers a great opportunity to practice English with a native speaker outside the classroom. This is a chance for you to work on fluency, slang, idioms, pronunciation, conversation, or whatever oral language areas you wish to improve. Your uSC can also give you feedback on your teaching (observing your sessions) and presentation preparation.

Midterm Consultation with uSC

- Each student will meet with the instructor to review progress/goals and to discuss midterm feedback. Your uSC will be asked to attend this meeting.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to arrive punctually and attend every class meeting. Please notify your instructor in advance should you need to be absent. More than TWO hours of absence during the semester may result in a grade of No Credit for the course. Absences due to departmental duties must be communicated in writing, via email.

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If changes in your teaching responsibilities occur at any point during the semester, please be sure to inform your instructor as soon as possible.

ITA EXAM & FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

At the end of the semester, **all ALI 270 students will take the ITA Oral Interview Exam again**. After successfully completing this course, most students are released from any further ALI oral skills course requirements. However, some students do fulfill the course requirements, yet still require further work on skills covered in this class. In such cases, these students are required to take an additional ALI course to help them make the necessary improvements.

IMPORTANT: 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, and not exceed the maximum number of allowable absences for the course. Students who do not meet these requirements will be at risk of receiving a No Credit and will have their department notified. Failure to attend the scheduled ITA exam may also result in a No Credit for the course.

USC's GRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The American Language Institute adheres to the following USC Graduate Admissions English Language Requirements:

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.

<https://gradadm.usc.edu/lightboxes/international-students-english-proficiency/>

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct—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* 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/>.

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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.

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.

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