ALI 252
Advanced Pronunciation

Instructor: Barry Griner	Email: griner@usc.edu
10157: M/W 8:00 – 9 20 AM	10158: T/Th 2:00 – 3:20 PM
Office: PSD 106 (Royal Street Parking Structure	Office hours: Announced weekly on Blackboard

PREREQUISITES: Students are placed into ALI 252 based on the results of a previous ALI oral skills course, the International Student English (ISE) Exam[1], or the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Exam[2]. In addition, international students who want to fine-tune their pronunciation, modify their accent, or develop accent fluidity are welcomed to enroll in this course as "volunteers."

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to help you improve your comprehension of American English, as well as help you to improve your intelligibility to American and others. In other words, we want your English pronunciation to be easy for others to understand, so that they do not have to put much effort into deciphering what you are saying to them and can enjoy conversation with you.

We will be working on the following areas of pronunciation:
- Segmentals (vowels and consonants)
- Syllables (combinations of vowels and consonants)
- Word stress
- Intonational units or "thought groups"
- Prominence (sentence stress)
- Intonation
- Rhythm
- Connected speech

These language areas will be addressed and practiced primarily through various drilling exercises and other practice activities, leading to more communicative activities in which you will have the opportunity to demonstrate automaticity with accurate pronunciation.
Accurate, fluent pronunciation will be addressed in four stages:
1. Knowledge: understanding how sounds and patterns of sounds are made (both physical and non-physical features)
2. Comprehension: being able to decipher the difference between similar sounds and patterns
3. Production: producing accurate sounds and patterns while concentrating on the physical and non-physical features necessary to produce them

---

[1] http://ali.usc.edu/ise/
[2] http://ali.usc.edu/ita/

4. <u>Automaticity</u>: comprehension and production of sounds and patterns without thought, as a fluent second language speaker (or native speaker with a modified accent).

COURSE MATERIALS: All handouts will be made available on Blackboard.

ALI ATTENDANCE POLICY: More than **1 class** of absence will be reported to the ALI Student Advisor. More than **2 classes** of absence will result in a course grade of **NC** (no credit).

TARDINESS POLICY: Attending class on time is important since tardiness is an inconvenience to your classmates. Coming to class late will count as a fraction of a class missed.

ASSESSMENT:

Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Class projects	60%

Quizzes, covering various pronunciation topics, will periodically be given and graded in class. These are designed to check your *knowledge*, *comprehension*, and *production*.

Class projects can include recordings, presentations, and skits. These are a chance for you to demonstrate *automaticity* in the areas of pronunciation. More detailed information on the projects are forthcoming.

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, <u>your proficiency in these oral skills at the *end* of the course or the ITA exam</u> determines whether you will be advised to take an additional class or not.

CONSULTATIONS AND OFFICE HOURS: During the semester I will be meeting with you individually for *consultations* to listen to your pronunciation, discuss your progress, and strategize with you to help you reach your personal goals in English communication. In addition, please feel free to join me during my *office hours* to practice your pronunciation. You are also very welcome to arrange additional time during virtual office hours via ZOOM.

CLASSROOM COURTESY:
- Since we will be using ZOOM during the semester, there will be times when we will need to mute/unmute our microphones depending on the activity.
- Please keep your video on during class. This is very helpful in a pronunciation class because it allows me to see your lip positions. Of course, you are welcome to use a virtual background or blank wall behind you for privacy.

- Please be a courteous audience member. When others are presenting, please pay attention and be an active listener by asking questions when possible.
- Finally, in goes without saying: please use only English during class.

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 in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

- **Support Systems:**
- *Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*
  engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
  Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

- *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*
  suicidepreventionlifeline.org
  Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- *Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*
  studenthealth.usc.edu
  Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

- *Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086*
  equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
  Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems (cont'd)

- *The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*
  dsp.usc.edu
  Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

- *USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*
  studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
  Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

- *Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*
  diversity.usc.edu
  Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

- *USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*
  dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
  Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

- *USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*
  dps.usc.edu
  Non-emergency assistance or information.

Schedule[3]

Week	Dates	Topic	Project	Other
1	Aug 17-20	• Introduction; Phonetic alphabet	Introduction & Recording	
2	Aug 24-27	• Consonants	Introduction & Recording	Consultation #1 (introduction & goals)
3	Aug 31-Sep 3	• Vowels		Consultation #1
4	Sep 7-10	• *No class: M, 9/7—Labor Day* • Vowels	Presentations	Consultation #1
5	Sep 14-17	• Word stress	Presentations	
6	Sep 21-24	• Consonant, Vowel, Stress QUIZ • Rhythm & Connected Speech	Presentations	Consultation #2 (quiz & presentation)
7	Sep 28-Oct 1	• Rhythm & Connected Speech		Consultation #2
8	Oct 5-8	• Rhythm & Connected Speech	Skit preparation	Consultation #2
9	Oct 12-15	• Prominence & Intonation	Skit preparation	Consultation #2
10	Oct 19-22	• Prominence & Intonation	Skit preparation	Consultation #3 (skit)
11	Oct 26-29	• Skit Dress Rehearsal (#1)	Skit preparation	Consultation #3
12	Nov 2-5	• Skit Dress Rehearsal (#2) • Skit Performance (#1)	Skit preparation Skit performance	Consultation #3
13	Nov 9-12	• Nov 9/10: Last day of class Skit Performance (#2) • Nov 11/12: ITA exams	Skit performance	
14 15	Nov 16-24	University Final Exams—There is NO final exam for this class		

---

[3] Note: Subject to change at the instructor's discretion.