

ALI 244 Advanced Intermediate Oral Skills

Instructor: Richard Jones	Office: Royal St Parking Structure 106R
Email: jonesric@usc.edu	Office hours: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:00
Class Time: M/W 8:30-9:50	Classroom: Online

Semester Holidays/Important Dates:

1/15 Classes Begin

1/18 Martin Luther King Day

2/15 Presidents Day

3/12 3/23 4/7 4/22 4/30 Wellness Days

4/30 Classes End

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

¹ International applicants. *University of Southern California: Undergraduate admissions*. Retrieved on January 4, 2013, from http://www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate/apply/inter_students.html

² Proficiency in English. *University of Southern California Graduate Admissions: International students*. Retrieved on January 4, 2013, from <http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/englishproficiency.html>

³ <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali/ise/>

- listening to informational segments regarding current events and issues

COURSE MATERIALS: In addition to handouts, which will be posted on Blackboard, the following books are required or recommended:

- (Required) What Color Is Your Parachute? 2020: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers. Richard N. Bolles. Ten Speed Press. (eBook available on Amazon)
- (Recommended) Lee, Christien. 21st Century Communication Student Book #4: Listening, Speaking, and Critical Thinking. National Geographic/Cengage.

ASSESSMENTS:

- 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.

Academic 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.

Film or Book Reviews

Partner Interviews

Additional details on each assignment 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.

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

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.

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).

⁴ Behavior violating university standards and appropriate sanctions. *University of Southern California: SCampus student guidebook*. Retrieved on January 4, 2013, from <http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>

Week	Topics and Activities	Chapters and Assignments
1	Course and Student Introductions Partner interviews	Self review of video
2	Review of Evaluation Sheets	Work on first PowerPoint
3	First PowerPoint Presentations TED Talk Conversations	First Presentations TED Talk resources on Blackboard
4	Finish Ted Talk Conversation Begin Professional/Job Interview English skills	Pronunciation
5	Continue Professional English	What Color is Your Parachute
6	Workplace skills: Interviewing	What Color is Your Parachute
7	Begin Interviews	Email and Professional Communications Handout
8	Finish Interviews	
9	Midterm Consultations	
10	Giving an Online Lesson	Handouts – Pronunciation and multisyllable words
11	Online Lessons	Stress in lists and longer phrases Phrasal Verbs
12	Work on Final Presentations	Information on slides/Parallelism
13	Begin Final presentations	Giving feedback – Constructive criticism
14	Final Presentations continued	Review of key listening and pronunciation items.
15	Speaking Assessment/Final Consultations	