ALI 242 (10119)
High Intermediate Pronunciation

Instructor: (Mr.) Barry Griner	Email: griner@usc.edu
T/Th 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM	Office hours: Vary each week
SOS B38	Office: PSD 106 (Royal Street Parking Structure)

PREREQUISITES: Students are placed into ALI 252 based on the results of a previous ALI oral skills course, the International Student English (ISE) Exam, or the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Exam. 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 primarily working on the following areas of pronunciation because these are essential for intelligibility:
- Segmentals (vowels and consonants)
- Syllables (combinations of vowels and consonants)
- Word stress

Time permitting, we will touch on other areas of pronunciation:
- Intonational units or "thought groups"
- Prominence (sentence stress)
- Intonation
- Rhythm
- Connected speech

These pronunciation 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 (i.e, intelligible), fluent pronunciation will be addressed in four stages:
1. <u>Knowledge</u>: understanding how sounds and patterns of sounds are made (both physical and non-physical features)
2. <u>Comprehension</u>: being able to decipher the difference between similar sounds and patterns
3. <u>Production</u>: producing accurate sounds while concentrating on the physical and non-physical features necessary to produce the sounds and patterns

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 **2 class** of absence will be reported to the ALI Student Advisor. More than **4 classes** of absence will run the risk of a 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:

Attendance/Participation	50%
Class projects	50%

In-class activities will focus on *knowledge*, *comprehension*, and *production* of class content. That is why attendance and participation in activities is essential.

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.

There are no mid-term or final exams in this course (although ITAs will have to take an exit exam during the last week of classes).

<u>Please note</u>: 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. These consultations are required and will take the place of in-class instruction from time to time during the semester. In addition, please feel free to join me during my *office hours* to practice your pronunciation. Office hours are, of course, optional, and I will create a Google doc showing my availability for office hours each week.

****BELOW ARE SOME GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND "RULES"
REGARDING CLASSROOM COURTESY.****

GENERAL
- Be sure to check your emails regularly including the Blackboard announcement page.
- Please be a courteous audience member. When others are presenting, please pay attention and be an active listener by asking questions when possible.

ONLINE SPECIFIC
- The University wants us to meet in-person, so we will be doing so all semester. The only exception is if I am too ill to be in the classroom, in which case, I will conduct class online.
- If possible, keep your video on during an online 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 a blank wall behind you for privacy.

CLASSROOM SPECIFIC
- Do not come to class if you are feeling sick. If your symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, please get tested by making an appointment on MySHR: https://studenthealth.usc.edu/myshr/
- Please email me about your ability to come to class and participate if you are ill and cannot be present for class. Communication is key!
- While masks are currently not required indoors, you are more than welcome to wear a mask if you'd like.
- I don't mind beverages or light snacks in class, but be sure to be tidy.
- If you need to take a quick break to use the restroom, etc., you do not need to ask permission; just quietly leave and return to class.
- Please put your mobile phones on airplane mode before the start of class. That way you you'll be less tempted to check it during class.
- That said, udse of technology is permissible when checking the definition or pronunciation of a word.
- Please use only English during class. Obviously, we want to practice as much as we can in class, and it is also a courtesy to others in the class who do not speak your native language.

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:

Emergency assistance: UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
Non-emergency assistance or information: UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200
USC Department of Public Safety
USC Emergency Information
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.

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

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
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
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity & Title IX: (213) 740-5086
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.

Office of Accessibility Services:(213) 740-0776
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. 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.

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

Campus Support & Intervention: (213) 740-0411
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
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.