

ALI 252
Advanced Pronunciation (Through Theater and Acting Techniques)
4-Week Summer Intensive
May 17- June 14, 2023

Instructor: Tessy Tzoytzoyrakos	Class location: DMC 104 10:00am-12:50pm
Email: tzoytzoy@usc.edu	Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Good pronunciation involves much more than the correct pronunciation of sounds; it is also about mastering the stress, rhythm, and flow of your speech. ALI 252 Through Theater utilizes acting techniques to help grasp the “music” of English, raise awareness, and give speakers a greater sense of confidence in their communication. In this course students will engage in improvisation activities and team-building exercises. Students will read a selection of scenes and one-act plays ranging from classical to modern pieces. They will perform individually and in groups, ending the semester with a final production/showcase.

We will be working on the following areas of pronunciation, theater and communication:

Pronunciation	Theater and Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Phonetic Alphabet ▪ Pronunciation of vowels and consonants ▪ Word stress ▪ Intonational units or “thought groups” ▪ Prominence ▪ Intonation ▪ Rhythm ▪ Connected speech ▪ Pitch Range, Tones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story and character analysis • Objectives and character portrayal • Comedy and timing • Beats • Improv • Self-critique • Movement and presence • Props, costumes, stage makeup • Sound and Lights • Dress rehearsal and dry tech

Pronunciation areas will be addressed and practiced through various drilling exercises, acting-related activities and discussions about the selected study scenes from popular plays, movies, and/or TV sitcoms. Students will perform scenes in class throughout the semester to showcase their progress.

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. **Practice & Production**: producing accurate sounds and patterns while concentrating on the physical and non-physical features necessary to produce them
 4. **Automaticity**: comprehension and production of sounds and patterns without thought, as a fluent second language speaker (or native speaker with a modified accent).

THEATER AND PRONUNCIATION FOR COMMUNICATION: You may be wondering how pronunciation and theater can be combined in helping improve communication skills. Effective communication is achieved by precise and strategic use of language structures, clear pronunciation, and the understanding of pragmatic knowledge in specific settings. Using acting techniques helps students with their cultural and oral interactions as well as with confidence building. Learning how to “imitate” characters portrayed in theater, film, or television gives students the opportunity to emulate successful communication behaviors in various contexts and situations. It allows students the chance to explore and experiment with language they may not normally be familiar with.

GRADING: Upon completion of this course, students will receive a grade of Credit (CR) or No Credit (NC). The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- **Participation and Teamwork:** Grades are based on the quality of participation such as attendance (15%), active engagement in scene study, class exercises, projects (20%); this is a performance-based class and your attendance is mandatory not only for your own presentations, but also in support of your classmates.
- **Scene and Performance Work:**
 - Exercises (improv, warm-ups, drills, discussions, quizzes*) 20%
 - Scene Presentations (Monologues, Group Scenes)– 25%
 - Final Showcase (rehearsals, line memorization, application of instructor’s feedback, participation in group)– 20%

COURSE MATERIALS: All handouts will be available in class and/or on Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: More than **2 class** absences will be reported to the ALI Student Advisor. More than **4 class** absences will result in a course grade of **NC** (no credit). Absence is counted for *any* reason, including tardiness, illness, emergencies, and conference attendance. You will be marked **ONE** hour absent, if you are 10 or more minutes late, or if you leave class early without prior instructor approval.

ITAs ONLY: 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.

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: ALI and USC are very diligent in keeping students honest about their assignments and tests. Obviously, this is not so much of an issue in a pronunciation class since you cannot have someone else speak for you. However, occasionally a student may be tempted to cheat on a test, or copy another's words from the Internet for a presentation. While these "shortcuts" may make passing a test or preparing a presentation easier, they do not help you learn or improve; therefore, it really is in your best interest to do your own work. This of course doesn't apply to using selected theater pieces for your scene study and performance.

CONFERENCING AND OFFICE HOURS: During the semester, I will be meeting with you individually and/or in groups to listen to your production of sounds, discuss your progress in your scene study and overall pronunciation, and strategize with you to help you reach your personal goals in English communication. In addition, please feel free to schedule an appointment during my office hours.

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 session as possible.