ALI 244: Academic and Professional Oral Skills II
Units: 3
Fall '23,
M/W 2-3:20

Location: SOS B45

Instructor: Olivia Verónica Martínez
Office: PSD 106
Office Hours: M/W 12-1:30, and by appointment
Contact Info: ovmartin@usc.edu, 310-626-2809 (texting and WhatsApp) (normally responds within 48 hours).

Course Description
Students are placed into ALI 244 based on the results of the International Student English (ISE) Exam[1] or a previous ALI oral skills course. According to the University, "[a]cademic success in the United States depends on your ability to communicate effectively in English,"[2] 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."[3] This course is designed to help you meet the above requirements by providing the tools and space for you to improve your proficiency in English and both succeed and enjoy your academic career at the university. Course discussions, presentations, role-playing and raping are some of the assignments that will be used to help you improve your American English oral skills.

Learning Objectives
This course will provide the tools and space for you to work on improving your proficiency in oral English, as spoken in the Los Angeles area That is we will work on:
- Building an awareness of English varieties spoken in the Los Angeles area (on and off campus)
- Identify the differences between the above varieties and your own so as to build a bridge of communication

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[1] http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali/ise/

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

[3] 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

- Use the course tools to modify pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to improve communication (on and off campus)
- Gain greater proficiency in American English oral skills by using the tools provided in the course and taking advantage of the time in class to practice.

Course Notes
This course is a credit/no credit course. You obtain credit by completing your assignments and meeting the above objectives. You will be evaluated at mid-term and given feedback so that you can know what you need to work on to receive credit. The final evaluation at the end of the semester will determine whether or not you will receive credit (a minimum of 80% grammatical and lexical accuracy and pronunciation, as well as fluency (speech is spontaneous with few pauses, words are linked together in phrases).

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required
All materials for the course will be made available through Blackboard. Please be sure to bring your electronic devices to class every day since we will be using online materials. You may use the USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program. USC Technology Support is available: Zoom information for students, Blackboard help for students, Software available to USC Campus.]

Description and Assessment of Assignments
Because this is an oral skills course, multimedia resources will be used for both instruction and assignments. You will have weekly in-class discussions, 4 formal presentations, and 3-4 shadowing assignments (in which you are mimicking somebody else's speech). While all your assignments will be evaluated and given feedback, credit for the course will be based on completion of assignments and the end-of-semester evaluation.

Participation
Group work and participation are required for this course. You are expected to take advantage of class time to practice and apply the tools to improve oral proficiency. Failure to do so will result in receiving no-credit for the course.

Assignment Submission Policy
Assignments should be submitted directly on Blackboard. If a video file is too big to load onto Blackboard, you may submit a video link to YouTube, Zoom, or Google Drive.

Grading Timeline
Students are generally given 1 week to complete each assignment. While late assignments are accepted, more than 3 late assignments will affect your chances of obtaining credit for the course. Students can expect feedback usually within 1 week after submission.

Course Specific Policies
While the use of electronic devices is expected in class, use of electronic devices for personal purposes is not allowed, and students participating in such activities will be marked absent for the day.

Attendance
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). Absences will only be excused with a doctor or lawyer note, so please use your absences wisely.

Classroom norms
This is an oral skills course, so speaking is welcome and expected in English for practice. This is to give all students the opportunity to practice, since not all students have many opportunities to speak English outside of class.

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook]() or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct]().

Creating a policy for the use of AI Generators in your course

In this course, I encourage you to use artificial intelligence (AI)-powered programs to help you with assignments that indicate the permitted use of AI. You should also be aware that AI text generation tools may present incorrect information, biased responses, and incomplete analyses; thus they are not yet prepared to produce text that meets the standards of this course. To adhere to our university values, you must cite any AI-generated material (e.g., text, images, etc.) included or referenced in your work and provide the prompts used to generate the content. Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Please review the instructions in each assignment for more details on how and when to use AI Generators for your submissions.

Please ask me if you are unsure about what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

In this class, you are expected to submit work that demonstrates your individual mastery of the course concepts. Unless specifically designated as a 'group project,' all assignments are expected to be completed individually. Plagiarism includes the submission of code written by, or otherwise obtained from someone else.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as no credit for the course.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](), page 13).

Course Evaluations

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. Please check Blackboard and make sure you submit your evaluations as it helps with the further development of the course for future generations. My purpose is to provide you with the most useful and relevant tools and information for your oral proficiency in English and success in this institution. At midterm, you will be asked to submit a mid-term evaluation of the course so as to assess progress and relevance of material to student goals.

Course Schedule

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 1	Course Description and Introduction	Read course syllabus and come prepared with questions	▪ Self-Introductory Video ▪ Story Video
Week 2	What is an accent?	Alexander Hamilton First 48 seconds	▪ Class discussion on accents and dialects ▪ Alexander Hamilton Video

Week 3	Pronunciartion:
	  ▪ Vowels
	  ▪ Intro
	  ▪ Verb Tenses and Consonants
		Vowels in That 70's Show From 1:08-2min
		Vowels in Alexander Hamilton
		Present and Past Tense Pronunciation Consonants
			▪ Practice rap focus on vowels (/æ/ and /ɛ/, and /ey/).
			▪ Rap Video #1
			▪ Practice Rap focus on consonants and past tense
			▪ Rap Video #2

Week 4	Intonation	Intonation Materials	▪ Practice Intonation ▪ Shadow ▪ Skit Video #1 ▪ Create group skit (Skit Video #2)
Week 5	Accents and Dialects	Accents and Dialects Accents and Dialects in LA Accents and Dialects in your Hometown	▪ Class Discussion on Accents and Dialects ▪ Choose Rap #3 -Open Choice ▪ Choose Skit #2 -Open Choice
Week 6	All About New Words	Creating New Words Lexicography Word Stress New Words Image	▪ Presentation #2 (Midterm)-Make Up 4 New Words ▪ Select 1 Rap and 2 Skit to Present for Midterm ▪ In-Class Discussion of New Words
Week 7	Midterm Prep and Conferences	Review Material Midterm Evaluations	▪ Prepare and submit midterm assignments. ▪ One-on-one Check-in
Week 8	The "Melting Pot" Consonants	Immigrants T-Variations Stress	▪ Class Discussion on Immigrants ▪ Practice stress/ t-variations (rap and skit)
Week 9	What is an "American"?	"Americans"	▪ Class Discussion of what is an American ▪ Choose presentation topic
Week 10	Class Disucssion and Topic Selection	Work on Presentation #3	▪ Group Discussion Video ▪ 1st Draft of Presentation #3
Week 11	Verb Tenses	Using modals and future	▪ Edit presentation to use modals and future tense
Week 12	Connected Speech	Adjustments in Connected Speech Rap and skit analysis of connected speech	▪ Your own skit using connected speech ▪ Edited Version of Presentation #3

Week 13	Final Assignment Selection	Materials Review	- Select a rap and a skit to present - Job Interview, Academic, or Professional Presentation
Week 14	Material Analysis and Preparation	Analyze pronunciation and grammar of materials	Submit scripts marked for stress, intonation and connected speech
Week 15	In-Class Final Presentations	In-Class Final Presentations and Course Evaluations	In-Class Final Presentations and Course Evaluations

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:
The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the student handbook or the Office of Academic Integrity's website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - *(213) 740-9355 – 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 and Crisis Lifeline - *988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call*
The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services

(though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - *(213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - *(213) 740-5086*
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - *(213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - *(213) 740-0776*
OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - *(213) 740-0411*
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - *(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.

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

Office of the Ombuds - *(213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)*
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - *(323) 442-2850 or* otfp@med.usc.edu
Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.