English Communication for Graduate Students Syllabus

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This course will primarily focus on oral, aural and written English language skills, including field-specific vocabulary and pronunciation, along with pedagogical and intercultural communication skills for a North American classroom. A more specific list class topics is provided below.

1. Instructor Presence and Appropriate Register
2. Explaining and Using A Syllabus
3. Discourse Intonation: Thought Groups, Prominence, Pitch
4. Pronunciation of Troublesome Vowels, Consonants, Consonant Clusters and Word Ending Sounds
5. Explaining Processes, General Topics and Visual Aids in Specific Fields
6. Leading Discussions in Specific Fields
7. Micro-Teaching Practice for the TEACH Test
8. Field-Specific Lecture Presentations with Peer Feedback
9. Fielding Undergraduate Student Questions
10. Giving Instructions and Advice to Undergraduate Students
11. Writing Letters of Recommendation for and Emails to Undergraduate Students
12. Grammatical Awareness Raising and Oral/Written Accuracy Practice

Textbooks are not required for this course but if you would like to purchase the books from which much of the class content is drawn, see below:


Attendance is mandatory, although 3 absences are allowed during the semester, as discussed in the contract meetings; the more you attend, the more you will improve.

There will be small homework and practice assignments given throughout the semester, but none will be very time-consuming. Please note the online resources listed on the next page if you want further English communication practice.
Intercultural Competence

Interviews with UCLA Undergraduates
Valuable both for what the students say about their lives and for sampling students’ spoken English.

International Dialects of English Archive
Recordings of English-language dialects and accents as heard around the world.

Pronunciation

English Talk Shop
You have to pay for this one, but it is one of the most useful and customizable pronunciation practice resources.

Rachel’s English
A comprehensive English language learning website with searchable topics and videos about everything language topic imaginable!

British Council’s Learn English Site
Interesting videos about grammar, pronunciation and other topics as well as testing options.

Speaking English Activities
Allows students to hear a sentence or expression, record themselves saying it, and compare.

BBC’s Learning English Website
Videos teaching all the sounds of English as well as quizzes and some programs on pronunciation.

Minimal Pair Discrimination
A resource for practicing the distinctions between difficult sounds in the American phonetic system.

The Color Vowel Chart
Pronunciation tool for learning English.

The Mechanics of Making English Sounds
Learn where to put your tongue, lips and other articulators when making English phonemes.

Listening Comprehension

TED Lectures
Short lectures by professionals, with transcripts and closed-captioning, on a plethora of topics.

American Rhetoric: The Power of Oratory in the United States
A bank of over 5,000 full text, audio, and video versions of public speeches, including presidential addresses from Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama and comedy routines by Abott and Costello. Links to speeches from CSPAN and the Commonwealth Club.

Voice of America
Use the “Learning English” or “Standard English” version; many videos of various topics.

Grammar/Vocabulary

Perfect English Grammar Home // Verb Tense Chart
An excellent site with clear explanation of grammar rules and plenty of practice exercises.

Technical Terms
Pronunciation of technical terms from the following disciplines: math, statistics, chemistry, biology, physics, engineering, and economics.

Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English
A searchable corpus of words and phrases used in lectures, classroom discussions, and lab sections, including self-study exercises to help you learn common classroom expressions.