

ESL 114G: American Oral English for Academic Purposes
Department of Applied Linguistics, The Pennsylvania State University

Instructor:
Course Section:
Class Location:

Office Location:
Office Hours: Course Meetings:
Email:

Course Description

This course is designed for graduate students who are non-native speakers of English in order to develop and improve their oral communication skills for effective interaction in social, as well as academic settings in English-speaking environments. Activities will include participating in and leading discussions on various topics of interest, group projects and presentations, and individual audio/video assignments. Participation in class discussions, activities, role-plays, etc. both in and outside of class is necessary.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, learners should be able to:

- (a) Engage effectively in various types of communicative situations in everyday academic contexts (both in and outside the classroom);
- (b) Lead and participate in discussions on various topics;
- (c) Understand and improve on the errors they make in English grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary during oral communication in academic contexts;
- (d) Notice and explore varied cultural and linguistic elements in different environments;
- (e) Reflect critically on their own participation.

Course Requirements

(1) Attendance and participation (20%)

Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to actively participate in class activities.

(2) Two audio/video-recording assignments (20%)

At two separate times during the semester, you will be responsible for audio-/video-recording yourself speaking (on a given topic or in response to a given prompt). The instructor will provide individual feedback.

(3) Discussion leading (15%)

Students will be asked to lead a 15-20 minute discussion in class. Topic selection will be flexible, but students should prepare materials (both for before and during class) that will aid your classmates' participation.

(4) Micro-teaching (10%)

Students will be asked to conduct a 12-15 minute micro-teaching in class in which they teach an introductory concept from their disciplines to your fellow classmates.

(5) Ongoing group project (20%)

During the semester, groups (3-4 students each) will participate in a local cultural activity of their choosing (e.g. attending a ballroom dancing class, taking a pottery workshop, visiting a local livestock auction). As a final project, groups will present their experience to the class as an oral presentation with an interactive component.

(6) Blog posts and other oral/written assignments (15%)

Throughout the semester in-class and take-home assignments will be given to practice specific topics being covered. There will also be a course blog that you should check regularly for other minor assignments, such as watching linked videos, visiting websites, or reading articles in preparation for the next class discussion. There will also be assignments posted for you to respond to via the blog.

Grading Policy

A	94-100	B	83-85.99	C	70-75.99
A-	90-93.99	B-	80-82.99	D	60-69.99
B+	86-89.99	C+	76-79.99	F	< 60

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Since this course is an oral communication course, attendance and active participation is mandatory. Full attendance means arriving on time, remaining present, actively participating in class discussions, and completing assignments and readings before the class meets. You may be absent for **four** classes without penalty to your attendance grade; any additional absences will affect your grade. If an absence is unavoidable, please speak with the instructor prior to your absence where possible.

Technology in the Classroom

Please do not bring your laptops to class (unless we are using them for a specific class activity). Cell phones should be silenced and put away (i.e., not on desktops or laps) for the duration of class.

Late Assignments

If, for some reason, you are unable to turn in an assignment on time, please discuss the issue with the instructor as early as possible. Late assignments with no explanation may lose points.

PSU Policies

Enrollment & Withdrawal

You are responsible for making all decisions regarding your enrollment status in and any Financial Holds for Penn State courses. Should you decide to withdraw from this course, you must either (1) drop via eLion or (2) complete an official “add/drop” form and submit it to your advisor by University deadlines. If you are failing the course and do not officially withdraw, you will receive a final grade of F. Please talk to me if you have any questions about this process.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using someone else’s words, ideas, and/or data in your work and treating it as your own by either not citing it or by citing it inappropriately. Plagiarism is a very serious issue in the American university system. Within Penn State, the College of Liberal Arts has the following policy regarding academic honesty and plagiarism:

“Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students’

dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.” (http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Deans_Area/Preparingyoursyllabus.shtml)

Questions about academic integrity can be referred to Ashley Tarbet at aet143@psu.edu or (814) 865-1070.

Disability Access Statement

“The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.”

(http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Deans_Area/Preparingyoursyllabus.shtml)

Questions about disability access can be referred to Jennifer Morris at jxm2@psu.edu or (814) 863-5538.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

“The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state of federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.”

(<http://ets.tlt.psu.edu/learningdesign/syllabus/policy>)

