

**English Language Institute
The University of Alabama**

Graduate Academic Speaking

Session:

Teacher:

Time: 8:00 – 9:15
TR

Office:

Room:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Course Description

Graduate Academic Speaking is a course designed to help international UA students improve their English fluency and comprehensibility. It is open to any international graduate student wishing to develop speaking proficiency in English. This course is a non-credit course taught by instructors who hold master's degrees in TESOL. The content of the course is not tied to a specific graduate discipline, but rather focuses on the acquisition of speaking skills necessary for student success at the graduate level. We will work toward the goal of improving oral communication through a variety of activities so that students gain confidence in their speaking ability. At the end of this class a student will be able to speak more comfortably and clearly in impromptu situations and to carry on longer and deeper conversations in English. This will be accomplished through activities such as (but not limited to) group discussions, debates, roleplays, pronunciation assignments, presentations, watching and discussing films, idiomatic vocabulary development, interviews, reader's theatre and video creation.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing Academic Speaking, students will be able to:

Speak and support opinions in extended discourse on somewhat complex issues; use English verb tenses and adverb clauses of time, cause and condition effectively, and speak with 70% comprehensibility.

- a. Tell a story about a personal experience in the past
- b. Participate effectively in discussions, giving opinions with adequate support
- c. Give an individual or group presentation in a seminar format, answering questions throughout
- d. Use the following conversation and discussion management skills:
 - Agreeing and disagreeing, with reasons and examples
 - Asking for and giving an opinion, with reasons and examples
 - Asking for and giving information
 - Making polite requests
 - Interrupting
 - Using eye contact and listening cues

Grades

This course is pass/fail based on daily attendance (80 percent), class participation and speaking assignments.

Materials

No textbook – the teacher provides copies.

Outline of Topics

- Week 1: focus on pronunciation assessment and errors, sentence and word stress
- Weeks 2 – 3: focus on fluency, linking
- Weeks 4 – 5: vowels, consonants, specific needs
- Weeks 6 – 7: intonation
- Week 8: sample lessons

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Attendance

Daily participation is part of your grade in this class, so it is to your advantage to attend class regularly. Failure to attend class consistently will result in a failing grade. If you are absent, ask a classmate or your teacher about the work that you missed. Please try not to come to class late. The ELI rule is as follows:

- When you are less than 10 minutes late, you are marked “late.”
- Three times “late” equals one time “absent.”
- You are also marked “absent” if you arrive more than ten minutes late.

Missed Classwork

You must be ready with assignments on the scheduled day. If you are absent, your grade will probably be 0. If you are absent due to **a situation beyond your control**, your teacher **may or may not** allow you to make up the missed work.

Cell Phones

Please turn off your cell phone and do not answer it during class. This will help the class work together without disruption. If you are worried about emergencies during class time, you can give out the ELI number: 348-7413. Someone from the ELI office will contact you when you receive an important message.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on COVID-19

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at studentaccounts.ua.edu and financialaid.ua.edu.]

UA students, faculty and staff are required to comply with [UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Task Force](#) guidance regarding social distancing, face coverings and other measures.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to [protect yourself and our herd](#). COVID-19 vaccines are being administered by the [University Medical Center](#), [the Student Health Center](#) and various businesses and healthcare providers. Students who [report proof of their vaccination status](#) will receive Bama Cash as a thank you gift for doing their part.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Code of Academic Conduct provided in the Online Catalog.

<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/code-academic-conduct/>

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines in the Online Catalog.

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<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/>

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website.

<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines.

http://provost.ua.edu/uploads/3/9/7/6/39760652/oaa_guidelines_for_religious_holiday_observance.pdf

UAct Statement

The UAct website provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.

<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>