

Johns Hopkins University
ORAL SKILLS FOR INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Class Syllabus Fall 2009

Instructor: Nancy Gooding

E-mail: ngooding23@aol.com

Class Time: M-W 12-1:15 (Section 1) 3-4:15 (Section 2)

Class Location: Krieger 302

Office Hours: M-W 1:30-2:30 or by appointment Krieger Hall 18

Course Description

Oral Skills for International Teaching Assistants 370.600 is intended for international TAs who are not native speakers of English. In addition to improving listening comprehension in everyday interactions, students will improve their fluency, accuracy, and intelligibility in a variety of speaking situations. The core curriculum is designed to include a wide range of performance-based communicative activities.

Performance Objectives

- To improve accuracy in pronunciation including stress, rhythm, and intonation
- To expand strategies for more effective speaking and listening
- To improve fluency through topic-centered discussion
- To express opinions and support them with logical reasoning
- To improve ability to verbally restate and rephrase
- To improve comprehension and use of speech reductions and contractions
- To increase confidence and intelligibility interacting in a variety of speaking situations

Required Materials

- 1", 3 ring notebook with 2 dividers
- Well Said 2nd Edition, Linda Grant (loaner books available)
- Connection to our group e-mail for sharing ideas and information

Grading

This course is graded on a **Pass / Fail** system. You must accumulate a total of 65 points in order to receive a grade of "P". Since this course is highly task-oriented and interactive, attendance and participation are assigned the most points. More than 3 absences will seriously affect your attendance and participation points. Your speaking portfolio will be a guided, ongoing project throughout the semester.

- **Attendance and participation**.....40 points
- **Narrative** (1-3 minutes to be recorded in lab).....10 points
- **Process speech** (3-5 minutes to be videotaped).....15 points
- **Descriptive presentation** (5-7 minutes to be videotaped).....15 points
- **Speaking portfolio**.....20 points

Class Activity Schedule Fall '09
Oral Skills for International Teaching Assistants

Date	Topics	Assignments
Week 1 & 2 Sept 2, 9	-Introductions and review syllabus -Discuss program and individual goals -Introduction to the Language Lab	Outline individual speaking goals Record speech sample
Week 3 Sept 14, 16	-Discuss the mechanics of pronunciation -American vowels and consonants	Start speaking portfolios Review evaluations of speech samples
Week 4 Sept 21, 23	-The importance of syllables -Syllables and-s, -ed endings	Prepare a narrative on a past event (1-2min)
Week 5 Sept 28, 30	-Components of conversation including "fillers" -Differences between direct and indirect speech	Record narrative in lab Lab work on individual problem areas
Week 6 Oct 5, 7	-Stress in compound words and suffixes -Stress and reduced words	Prepare a pattern poetry piece
Week 7 Oct 12, 14	-Continue practicing stress in reduced words - Rhythm in sentences	Record poetry Continue working on problem areas
Week 8 Oct 19,21	-Transition and signal words - How to organize a process speech	Prepare a process speech (3-5 min)
Week 9 Oct 26, 28	-Mid-term conferences -Linking	Present process speech (videotaped) Peer edit process speeches
Week 10 Nov 2, 4	-Intonation -The components of a presentation	Prepare a descriptive presentation (5-7min)
Week 11 Nov 9, 11	-Phrasing and pausing -How to rephrase and restate	Record a verbal rephrasing with a prompt from the instructor
Week 12 Nov 16, 18	-Vocabulary of agreeing / disagreeing - Practice informal debates	Continue preparing descriptive presentation
Week13 Nov 23, 25	-Focus in discourse -Listening to accented English	Present descriptive presentation (videotaped)
Week 14 Nov 30, Dec 2	-Review all pronunciation components -Finish speaking portfolios	Speaking portfolios due
Week 15 Dec 7, 9	-Reading Week -Final conferences with portfolio review	Have a wonderful vacation!

- **All classes are highly interactive with lots of pair / small group work.**
- **We have scheduled lab time every other Wednesday starting on Sept. 9th. The lab will be used to present your assignments and practice individual problem areas of pronunciation.**
- **Detailed class activities will be e-mailed to all students on a weekly basis.**