## **EAP 5835**

# Academic Spoken English for International Teaching Assistants 3 Credit Hours

**Course Meeting Times:** 

Fall and Spring: 2 x week for 1 hour and 15 minutes each time

Summer: 4 x week for 6 weeks.

## **Objectives/Description**

This course is designed to help international teaching assistants improve their spoken English and develop communication and teaching skills necessary in a North American university classroom. The course focuses on both communication of field-specific content as well as interaction with university students. In addition, participants practice active teaching strategies.

The three main components of this course are: (1) Language skills: speaking fluency, pronunciation, instructional language, and vocabulary; (2) Intercultural communication: U.S. educational system, the American classroom, roles of teachers and students, expectations; and (3) Pedagogical skills: active teaching and classroom management skills.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze cultural differences in teaching styles and classroom management techniques.
- 2. Analyze the characteristics of American students based on research/statistics on American students.
- 3. Discuss research on best teaching practices.
- 4. Create lesson plans that incorporate Active Teaching methods.
- 5. Explain field-specific content in clear language without jargon.
- 6. Incorporate classroom questions that facilitate learning and respond effectively to audience questions and comments.

#### Required Texts, Readings, and/or other Resources

No textbook required. A course packet will be provided by the instructor.

## Course Expectations

Each student is expected to:

- 1. Attend all classes (failure to attend regularly may result in a failing scores)
- 2. Participate actively in class.
- 3. Complete assignments (4 videotaped, 10-minute lessons) on the assigned date.
- 4. Attend feedback sessions.
- 5. Practice speaking English as much as possible both in class and outside.

**Cell phone policy:** Cell phones may be on during class, but they should not become a distraction to the instructor or other students.

**Zoom Policy**: Your camera must be on during the class. If you are in a quiet place, your mic can be on or you can mute/unmute yourself as needed. Given that this is a speaking class, the synchronous meetings are very important, as you will be able to participate in activities to develop fluency and communication skills. You will also have time to practice for your presentations during class.

## **Grading/Evaluation**

Grade type: *Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory*. Minimum Passing Score = 70/100 pts.

Attendance 10 points
Participation 10 points
Syllabus 20 points
Defining a Concept 20 points
Explaining a Process 20 points
Review Worksheet 20 points

TOTAL 100 points

**Attendance (10 points):** All students start with 10 points for attendance. Attendance points will be deducted if students are absent or tardy and do not provide documentation to justify their absence.

**Participation (10 points):** All students start with 10 points for participation. Students are expected to be actively involved in class as demonstrated by the following behaviors: participating in class activities, cooperating with classmates, bringing the course packet to class, presenting on the scheduled date, attending individual conferences on time, not texting or checking phone messages during class. Disregard of the participation policy on the part of the students will result in a deduction of one (1) point per class period that the behavior occurs.

**Major assignments (80 points):** There are four major assignments in this course. Each assignment is worth 20 points and is evaluated based on a rubric. All lessons should be related to the presenter's field and should incorporate active teaching strategies and allow for student participation. All lessons will be videotaped for grading and feedback purposes. Detailed instructions for each presentation will be provided in the course packet and in Canvas.

• **Syllabus Presentation (20 points):** Students will create a 1-page syllabus for a course in their field and prepare a 10-minute presentation in which they introduce themselves and the course.

- Concept Lesson (20 points): Students will plan and present a 10-minute lesson about a concept in their field. The lesson must incorporate active teaching strategies.
- **Process Lesson (20 points):** Students will plan and present a 10-minute lesson about a process in their field that is related to the concept they taught previously. The lesson must incorporate active teaching strategies.
- Worksheet Lesson (20 points): Students will prepare a 1-page worksheet to review the concept and the process they taught. They will then facilitate a 10-minute review session based on the worksheet.

**NOTE:** Students who score 90 or better in this course can be certified in Spoken English. The standards for International TAs who score 45 on SPEAK or 23-24 on TOEFL iBT are as follow:

A score of 45 on SPEAK, or 23-24 on the Speaking section of TOEFL iBT, certifies a student to teach at level 1; and to teach at levels 2 for up to two semesters if also concurrently enrolled in an appropriate CIES ITA English language course. By no later than the end of these two semesters, if the student's skills have not improved sufficiently to achieve a score of 50 on the SPEAK exam, the student will be eligible to only teach at level 1. The student will be allowed to teach at levels 2-4 by meeting at least one of the following two criteria:

- · Achieve a score of 50 on SPEAK.
- Enroll in Advanced Spoken English for ITAs and score 90 or better in the course.