EAP 5838
Pronunciation for International Teaching Assistants
(3 credit hours)

Course Meeting Times: 2 x week for 1 hour and 15 minutes each time.

Course Description: This course is designed to help you improve pronunciation and speaking skills so you can become more competent and confident speakers of English. The course will also help you develop an awareness of specific pronunciation features that are the most difficult for you. The course includes a weekly recording session where you will do individualized practice and record speech samples for instructor feedback.

There are many forms of English spoken around the world. For the purposes of this course, our focus will be the pronunciation of North American English.

This course has a Canvas site.

Materials: We will discuss materials the first week of class.

- Grant, L. (2017). *Well Said: Pronunciation for Clear Communication (4th ed)*. Boston, MA: Cengage/National Geographic Learning. About $52 on Amazon. (This book is not required)

- Blue Canoe Pronunciation App. Use the premium version of the app. It should cost about $12/month; there might be a special deal (these things change all the time).

With the premium version, you will have access to all the exercises and a dashboard that shows how many minutes you have completed. You can send upload screen shots in Canvas, when requested, so that your points can be logged for class.

Additional pronunciation materials will be provided in class by the instructor.

Learning Objectives

Cultural Competence

- Develop familiarity with linguistic and cultural expectations regarding communicative interactions in North American university settings (e.g., student-instructor exchanges, classroom language, etc.)

Vowels & Consonants (Accuracy)

- Discriminate between vowels and consonants when listening, accurately say individual sounds and monitor for correct pronunciation during speech.

- Accurately pronounce important endings: (e.g., past tense, 3rd person verbs, and plurals)

Stress, Rhythm & Intonation (Fluency)

- Stress correct syllables and content words when speaking.

- Properly use falling and rising intonation patterns in questions and statements; group language into thought groups, use linking to improve rhythm across phrases.

- Speak with a minimum of fillers, repetitions, etc. to enhance fluency and avoid choppy or distracting language.

Self-Monitoring and Improvement

- Monitor for, and correct pronunciation features that are difficult for you.

Grading Policy

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

Your grade is based on: **Attendance** (5 points)

 Self-Assessment (10 points)

 Blue Canoe (15 points)

 Recordings (40 points)

 Discussion (16 points)

 Presentation (10 points)

 Final Reflection (4 points)

Attendance: (5 points)
NOTE: 5 unexcused absences results in automatic FAILURE (U)

You may have an excused absence emergencies or attendance at a conference. However, meeting with your advisor, taking a friend to the airport, being stuck in a meeting, etc. are not considered excused absences. If you arrive to class 30 minutes late, you will be marked absent.

Self-Assessment (10 points)
This assignment will be completed at the start of the semester and will require you to complete some recordings and analyze your recorded work as a way to examine your pronunciation skills and practice self-monitoring.

Recordings (40 points 10 each worth 4 points)
Over the course of the semester, you will complete 11 recordings. Many of these recordings will be in class, but some might be out of class. You will receive 4 points for each recording and will receive audio feedback from the instructor on your work. Recordings assignments will focus on different

topics of pronunciation and vocabulary that we cover. Possible recording activities will include word lists, mirror recordings, readings, etc.

Blue Canoe (15 points, pronunciation app)

In Blue Canoe, 100 points = 10 minutes and the recommended use is 10 minutes/day. Today's Plan in Blue Canoe will provide you with 10 minutes' worth of work each day.

Our goal for each week is: 50 minutes/500 points x approx. 12 weeks = 6,000 points between the third and last weeks of the semester.

For example, if you earn half of the points (3000 points) in Blue Canoe, you will get a score in Canvas of 7.5/15.

Formula: your points/6000 x 15 = score

Scores will be updated periodically throughout the semester.

Note: it is best to do these 50 minutes over a series of days, not in one day. However, you can do more than 10 minutes per day and/or more than 5 days/week..

Discussion (16 points 4 each worth 4 points)
Several times during the semester we will discuss popular and academic topics in class. You are expected to participate in discussion by sharing your ideas and/or asking questions. You will be expected to facilitate one discussion. You will need to prepare the topic, create possible questions, and help moderate the discussion in class.

Presentation (10 points)
To practice pronunciation and listening skills, each student will prepare a 10-minute presentation on a concept from their academic field. More details will be given in class and students will have chances to practice their presentations in class to work on fluency.

Final Reflection (4 points)
At the end of the semester, you will review the work you have done during the semester, take notes about what you've learned and what has changed based off of the evidence of feedback and your own experiences.