English Language Institute

Spring 2016 - Spontaneous Speaking

Instructor: Shane Dunkle   Instructor’s Email: sdunkle@uchicago.edu
Office/Office Hours: Cobb 227 / By Appointment
Classroom: TBA   Class Hours: TBA

Required Materials:

- Folder/notebook to organize class material
- Laptop

Course Overview:

This class builds spontaneous speaking skills in high-stress, fast-paced academic and non-academic contexts. Students learn the linguistic, pragmatic, and conversational strategies needed to ask culturally appropriate questions, contribute ideas and opinions, and interact with others in campus classrooms and the overall Chicago community. Students participate in simulations, debates, presentations, and role-plays and are provided feedback on their structure, fluency, usage, and discourse strategies.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

- Identify the features of linguistic breakdown resulting from the pressure of speaking extemporaneously under high stakes conditions.
- Learn native and superior speaker strategies for navigating and circumlocuting difficult situations requiring unplanned speech.
- Confidently defend a position among provocative, misinformed or otherwise hostile interlocutors.
- Adapt speech appropriately when communicating with people at different positions in a social hierarchy.
- Respond to questions in high stress contexts such as job interviews, negotiations, and debates.
- Identify and employ native speaker speaking pragmatics over a range of formal and informal contexts.
**Grading Scale:**

Students must complete 87% of coursework and attendance to pass!

Completion of tasks in class = 25%
Out of class tasks and homework = 25%
Midterm = 25%
Final = 25%

This class is pass/fail, but you will be provided with a letter grade for your personal records.

- 100% - 94% = A
- 93% - 90% = A-
- 89% - 87% = B+
- 86% - 83% = B
- 82% - 80% = B-
- 79% - 77% = C+
- 76% - 73% = C
- 72% - 70% = C-
- 69% - 67% = D+
- 66% - 63% = D
- 62% - 60% = D-
- Below 60% = F

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**

Due to the fact that 25% of the final grade reflects quality completion of partnered in-class activities, students are required to attend every class. Missing even one class may lead to failure of the course. In the event that a student is absent from class, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor or a classmate to find out what was covered in class and when any homework is due.

**Homework**

Hand in homework on the date and time it is due. Unless told otherwise by your instructor, all work for this class must be done on your own.

**Out of Class Coursework**

According to University policy, students should expect to spend two hours per semester hour per week preparing for class sessions. This means that in your three-credit ELI ESL course, standard out-of-class weekly preparation should be six hours.

**Electronic Communication**

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University e-mail address. Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. Students should check this account at least once a day.
**Academic Integrity**

High value is placed on academic integrity in North American higher education institutions, and the University of Chicago is no exception. For now, the important thing to keep in mind is that are allowed to work together on homework and assignments; however, you are not allowed to turn in identical work for individually-assigned tasks (that is, when an assignment is NOT a group assignment).

**Disability Statement**

The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or you think you have a disability) and, as a result, need reasonable accommodation to participate fully in this course, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible: disabilities@uchicago.edu. You must be registered with Student Disability Services in order to receive accommodations.

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**Helpful Online Resources**

You will find these sites valuable throughout your academic career:

*Longman English Dictionary* (great for quick, basic searches)
http://www.ldoceonline.com

*Corpus of Contemporary American English* (examples of words in use, collocations, etc.)
http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/

*Academic Vocabulary Lists* (download a complete academic vocabulary list)
http://www.academicvocabulary.info

*Words and Phrases Info* (field-specific lists)
http://www.wordandphrase.info/academic/frequencyList.asp

*Purdue OWL* (APA and MLA citation rules)
MLA: format for citing in humanities
APA: format for citing in sciences
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

*Typing Practice*
http://www.sense-lang.org/typing/tutor/keyboarding.php

*ELI Resource Page*
http://tiny.cc/n64q0x

Please visit the English Language Institute’s resource page. Here you will find Chicago activities and a wide variety of recommended online resources.
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