Spoken Communication: General American Pronunciation

Course Description

Spoken Communication: General American Pronunciation is an eight-week, mixed proficiency-level speaking course for speakers of English as an additional language. The course prioritizes speaker intelligibility and seeks to professionalize students’ spoken English by focusing on word stress, stress-timing in phrases, the prominence of keywords in strings of speech, and phonemic accuracy and intonation patterns within the General American dialect. Students develop a working knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and explore General American pronunciation through guided listening, exercises, journaling, presentations, and recorded projects.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Apply a variety of strategies to control the rhythm and stress of their speech
- Make useful generalizations about stress at the phrase and sentence level
- Predict and produce reductions that occur frequently in N. American speech
- Apply a variety of specific linking strategies to connect individual words
- Identify fundamental intonation patterns at the ends of phrases and sentences
- Divide prepared, formal speech into thought groups
- Apply stress strategically to create focus on keywords
- Pause strategically to increase intelligibility and impact of message
- Identify IPA symbols that represent target segments

Required Materials

- *Well Said: Pronunciation for Clear Communication* by Linda Grant 4th ed. (you will receive the book on the first day of class)
- Access to Google Drive
- A notebook for new vocabulary, handouts, and class notes
- Cell phone or laptop to access the internet