

## **Spoken Discourse and Cross Cultural Communication**

IELI 2330

Fall 2009

Instructor: Tom Schroeder  
Office: Main 069C  
Office Phone: 797-1237 (voice mail)  
E-Mail: tom.schroeder@usu.edu

Office Hours: M W-1:30  
other times by appointment

**Class Location:** VSB 213  
**Class Times:** MWF 11:30 –12:20

Textbooks: Printed materials for the class will be supplied by the teacher.

### **Semester Calendar:**

August 24 ..... IELI Testing  
August 25.....Orientation 9 am/First Day of Classes  
August 27.....Make-up Test 9 am  
August 28.....Last Day to Add without Instructor's Signature  
September 7..... Labor Day Holiday (No Classes)  
October 9.....Mid-Term Grades Due  
October 15 ..... Attend Friday Schedule  
October 16 .....Fall Break (No Classes)  
November 25-27.....Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)  
Nov. 30-Dec. 4 .....No Test Week  
December 7-11 .....Final Examinations

December 17 .....Deadline for Instructors to Submit Final Grades

**Course Purpose:**

1. The general purpose of this intermediate-advanced level class is to improve your effectiveness in face to face communications with native speakers of English.
2. Further the class is intended to prepare you for group work in an academic environment.
3. An additional purpose of the class is to assist you in your adjustment to living in the community here at Utah State University.

**Course Goals:**

1. The primary goal of the class is for you to develop appropriate skills and strategies for successful communication with Americans. These skills will be appropriate for the culture and the strategies will be appropriate for your personality.
2. Vocabulary development is a goal for the class. Specifically, vocabulary used by Americans in conversation, including slang and idiomatic expressions, will be presented and practiced in the class.
3. Working in groups with Americans will be an academic activity that you will experience at USU. The ability to work in a group with a native speaker of English requires skills that will be a goal in this class. Included in these goals are responsibilities in the group, decision making in the group, and effective communication in the group.
4. It is also a goal of the class to select topics for discussion and demonstration in the class that are useful to help you understand the culture of the university as well as the culture of the USA.

**Instructional Format:**

The class will meet once in a while with just the professor. The majority of class meetings will be with American undergraduate students in the class.

**Communicative Skills:**

Effective language learning techniques

Non-verbal expression  
use of eye contact

use of head nod  
use of facial expression  
use of body language  
use of gestures

Verbal feedback

Expressions of  
non-understanding  
repair  
agreement  
disagreement  
negotiation  
opinion  
approval  
disapproval  
prediction  
apology  
forgiveness  
complement  
unity

The “work” of conversing  
attending  
following  
topic nominating  
turn-taking  
developing

Requesting verbal feedback

## **Group Work Skills**

Responsibilities in groups

- to listen carefully to the speaker.
- to speak up when you have something to say or it is your turn.
- to stick to the point.
- to be aware of your classmates, not to don't dominate the group.

Facilitating groups

to keep the group's attention on the topic.  
to be certain that everyone has the opportunity to participate  
to guide, direct, stimulate, clarify, and synthesize the discussion when needed  
to guide the group in decision making.

### **Language in groups:**

Phrases used to get the discussion started or to bring the discussion back to the topic.  
Phrases used to develop the topic and to clarify points.  
Phrases used to introduce facts or examples.  
Phrases used to bring out an opposing point of view.  
Phrases used to draw conclusions, summarize and synthesize what has been said.

### **Group Presentation Skills**

- Topic selection
- Organization and planning
- Decision making
- Doing your part
- Putting all parts together
- Rehearsing
- Physical presence
- Turn- taking
- Delivery

### **Language of Presentations**

- Clarity of information
- Pronunciation
- Rhythm/Intonation
- Voice Projection
- Reading or memorized
- Formality or Casual
- uh, um, cough/stammer
- Use of new "phrases
- Energy/Animation

### **Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on:

Class Participation

100 points

Vocabulary/Pronunciation Assignment	100	“
Group Assignments	50	“
Oral Presentations	50	“
Final Project	200	“

Evaluations will be an assessment of your performance in all areas required for effective communication, including production and understanding. Group work will also be evaluated both individually and collectively.

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

A.....92-100	
A-.....90-92	C.....72-78
B+.....88-90	C-.....70-72
B.....82-88	D+.....68-70
B-.....80-82	D.....60-68
C+.....78-80	F.....59 and below

IELI and University policy states that a grade of C- must be earned to pass any IELI course.

**Attendance and Make-up:**

Attendance is important because many assignments will be completed in class and these cannot be made up. Also many homework assignments will be the basis of class activities therefore it is essential that assignments are turned in on time. If you know you must be absent for any class tell me before the class. If you must be absent for an evaluation we may allow another evaluation to count double.

Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to obtain equal participation within the program. Please speak to your IELI advisor if you have a special need and there is a way we can help you participate fully in your classes.