

AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION AND EXPRESSION

FA 4950-01

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Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to improve speaking skills, specifically for students whose primary language is not English. Students learn the American English symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet as a communicating tool for understanding dialect and pronunciation. The class is devoted to developing clear diction as well as conveying precise meaning through vocal inflection and facial expressions.

Textbook:

Mayer, Lyle V., Fundamentals of Voice & Articulation, 14th Edition, McGraw Hill, Boston, 2008.

Supplemental Reference:

Kenyon, John S. and Knott, Thomas A., A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English, Mirriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, MA, 1953.

Suggested Recording Software (Free):

Most proficiency tests may be submitted in wav. or MP3 format. To record on your home computer, it may be necessary to install software. Audacity is an audio recorder/editor, open-source software, that may be downloaded from the Internet for free. The internet site is: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Methods:

The first part of the course is devoted to learning pronunciation. Students will learn the **International Phonetic Alphabet** (IPA) symbols used in American English. The IPA is a language tool that facilitates communication with the class and the instructor. The second part of the course is devoted to incorporating correct pronunciation with appropriate expression. Students will regularly take part in speaking exercises to build confidence in expression.

Requirements/Assignments:

PRESENTATIONS/SCENARIOS: Students will recite short dialog selections, each focusing on a specific set of sounds or expressions. Students must demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in the area of focus in order to pass. This requires *practice*. There are five proficiency tests.

PRESENTATION: "My Home": Students will prepare a 10-15 minute presentation describing where they grew up. The presentation serves as a baseline for improvement throughout the course. This presentation should be presented very informally and conversationally.

FINAL LECTURE PRESENTATION: The semester culminates in a final 30-minute presentation that demonstrates the student's ability to incorporate all the skills mastered in each of the proficiency tests, while giving a lecture in their field of study. The "audience" will be simulated and will represent students and peers.

PARTICIPATION: There will be several in-class exercises in which the student must participate in order to master vocal skills. Full commitment to the exercises is essential. Studying the vocal technique of peers is a valuable way to learn about voice so participation in discussions during class provides the student with feedback other than the instructor's. Students are assessed approximately every 4 weeks, and are assigned a grade based on attendance, commitment to exercises, contribution to discussion/criticism, punctuality, preparedness, and courtesy toward peers.

Policies:

SUBMITTED MATERIAL:

Except for transcribed IPA, all material submitted for an assignment must be TYPED. Handwritten work will not be accepted. Plan ahead and start early to avoid delays caused by computer and printer problems. (Computer/printer failure is not an excuse for late or incomplete work.)

ATTENDANCE:

The student is responsible to provide the proper documentation for an excused absence. Documentation is to be provided upon the return to class. 3 or more absences is considered excessive and may result in the student being dropped from the class.

COURTESY:

Respect for everyone in the classroom is a must. Attentiveness to peers and instructor is expected. An atmosphere conducive to learning relies heavily on shared energy and enthusiasm by both students and instructor. Turn off cell phones, or avoid bringing them to class.

COURSE CALENDAR:

The Course Calendar is subject to change. I strive to meet the needs of each class. Time allowances vary as a result of several factors, the most influential being class size and class cancellation due to weather.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING:

Copying text directly from a book, magazine article, web site, etc. without crediting the author is plagiarism. Similarly, paraphrasing the same text is a form of plagiarism. Honesty is expected. In addition, cheating on tests or submitting a false excuse are not tolerated and are both grounds for disciplinary action.

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).

Grading:

Grades are determined based on the percentage of total number of points accumulated.

Presentation: "My Home"		50
Scenario Presentations	4@50 points each	200
Final Lecture Presentation		<u>200</u>

Total: 700 points

94% to 100% = A	83% to 87% = B	73% to 77% = C	60% to 67% = D
88% to 92% = AB	78% to 82% = BC	68% to 72% = CD	0% to 59% = F

May	10	Mon	Introduction/Syllabus/How to Record	
	11	Tue	PRESENTATION: "My Home"	
	12	Wed	PRESENTATION: "My Home"	
	13	Thu		
	17	Mon	Proficiency #1	
	18	Tue		
	19	Wed		
	20	Thu	PRESENTATION: SCENARIO 1	
	24	Mon	Proficiency #2	
	25	Tue		
	26	Wed		
	27	Thu	PRESENTATION: SCENARIO 2	
June	31	Mon	Proficiency #3	
	01	Tue		
	02	Wed		
	03	Thu	PRESENTATION: SCENARIO 3	
		07	Mon	Proficiency #4
		08	Tue	
		09	Wed	
		10	Thu	PRESENTATION: SCENARIO 4
		14	Mon	Proficiency #5
		15	Tue	
		16	Wed	
		17	Thu	
		21	Mon	FINAL PRESENTATION: LECTURE
		22	Tue	FINAL PRESENTATION: LECTURE
		23	Wed	FINAL PRESENTATION: LECTURE
		24	Thu	FINAL PRESENTATION: LECTURE