

Language & Culture Coaching for ITAs

EDU 198 – Winter 2019
1350 The Grove (Surge III)

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Course Description

Language & Culture Coaching for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) is designed to help multilingual graduate students develop the oral skills needed to communicate effectively as TAs. Students will have the opportunity to explore and develop their skills and competencies related to American English pronunciation, vocabulary, pragmatics, classroom management, discourse management, and other related topics. Instruction will be delivered through a combination of one-on-one training with a Language & Culture Coach, group coaching with an Instructor, and online coaching through Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes and content of this course are personalized for each student based on their current needs and goals. In the beginning of the course, students will complete a self-assessment exercise. This, along with past results on the Test of Oral English Proficiency (TOEP) when applicable, will be used to develop a proposed coaching plan, which will be discussed with the student in their first one-on-one meeting. The coaching plan includes the student's specific student learning outcomes and course objectives, and students will be involved in informing and shaping this plan. Student learning outcomes must be directly related to oral skills associated with work as a TA.

Tracks

Based on each student's coaching plan, they will be assigned to one of four tracks: Pronunciation, Vocabulary, TA Skills, and Discourse Management. About 75% of coaching activities should be focused on topics and activities from the student's assigned track.

Supplements

Students will also have access to supplemental activities; categories include: Fluency, Conversation, Culture/Pragmatics, Graduate Student Life, and Grammar. About 25% of coaching can be focused on supplemental activities or activities from one of the other tracks.

Course Materials

No textbook is required for this course. Online materials are accessible to students in Canvas.

Course Prerequisites

Course participation is subject to the consent of the instructor.

Course Plan and Grading

This course will be graded as pass/no pass with 70% or higher being equal to a passing grade. Students must accrue the required number of points (see below) to receive a passing grade.

*Note: This is a variable unit course that can be worth either one or two units. Students who are required to complete 20 hours of English instruction (either because they are working as a TA and have a Conditional Pass on the TOEP **OR** because they are planning to retake the TOEP) must be enrolled in the two-unit option.*

	One-Unit Option	Two-Unit Option
Pre-Coaching	Complete pre-coaching self-assessment exercise	Complete pre-coaching self-assessment exercise
Coaching	Earn 100 points by completing activities recommended in your coaching plan	Earn 200 points by completing activities recommended in your coaching plan
Post-Coaching	Complete a final self-assessment and reflection	Complete a final self-assessment and reflection

Coaching Modes of Delivery

Coaching will be delivered through a combination of one-on-one coaching, group coaching, and/or online coaching. Participation in each of these forms of coaching will count toward the required points.

One-on-One Coaching

Each student will be assigned to an undergraduate Language & Culture Coach, who will provide ongoing practice opportunities in a one-on-one setting. Students will be assigned to meet with their coach once a week. Each coaching session is 50 minutes. The exact number of times students meet with a coach may slightly vary due to university holidays and availability. Students will earn 10 points for each 50-minute coaching session completed.

Students must attend their scheduled coaching sessions. However, students may reschedule or cancel sessions due to unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, students must follow the guidelines below.

Canceling or Rescheduling a Session

If students need to cancel or reschedule a session, they must let the instructor AND their coach know at least 24 hours before the scheduled session. This notification may be in person or via email. If possible, missed coaching sessions should be rescheduled, but we may not be able to accommodate all requests for rescheduling depending on availability. Students with excessive cancellations or rescheduling requests may not be permitted to continue receiving one-on-one coaching.

Late Cancellations or Rescheduling Requests

If students make a request to cancel or reschedule a session with less than a 24-hour notice, the request will be recorded as **late**. Students with more than one late cancellation or rescheduling request may not be permitted to continue receiving one-on-one coaching.

No Shows

If students fail to attend a session without notifying the instructor and their coach, this will be recorded as a "no show". Students with a "no show" may not be permitted to continue receiving one-on-one coaching.

Availability Changes

If a student's availability changes during the quarter (for example, they need to change their coaching sessions from Tuesdays to Thursdays), they must let the instructor AND their coach know at least 24 hours before the next scheduled session. We will attempt to accommodate the new availability, but it may be necessary to assign the student to a different coach who is available at the new time.

Group Coaching

Small group discussions and practice opportunities will be arranged for groups of students with similar student learning outcomes. These sessions will be led by an instructor. Students will earn 10 points for each 50-minute group coaching session attended.

Online Coaching

Lessons with accompanying practice exercises and quizzes will be accessible through Canvas. These lessons will be worth varying amounts of points and should be completed outside of one-on-one and group coaching hours. Some one-on-one and group coaching sessions may require completion of specific online coaching lessons prior to meeting.

Final Assessment & Reflection

During the final one-on-one coaching session, the coach will give the student a final assessment to assess progress toward meeting the student learning outcomes set in the coaching plan. This session is mandatory. If a student is unable to meet during the last scheduled time with their coach, they must reschedule that session as early as possible. After the final session, all students must write a final reflection paper (about 200-400 words) in which they discuss the progress made toward meeting the student learning outcomes and how they will apply what they have learned.

Example Coaching Plan

The following page includes an example of what a coaching plan may look like. Students will discuss and finalize this plan with their coach during their first session. All coaching plans must be approved by an instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this quarter, Student A will be able to...

- Pronounce key terms in chemistry clearly
- Effectively use features like intonation to help with listener understanding
- Explain basic concepts in general chemistry

Primary Track: Pronunciation

Proposed Coaching Plan

Pronunciation Track	
Meet one-on-one with a coach Session focus: pronunciation Seven 50-minute sessions	70 points
Complete online coaching lessons in Pronunciation Track. Lessons suggested for you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consonant accuracy- Vowel accuracy- Common pronunciation issues for Chinese speakers- Reduced vowels- Syllable stress- Thought groups/pausing- Sentence intonation- Discourse intonation- Pronunciation diagnostic	80 points
Attend group coaching: One 50-minute session on Pronunciation	10 points
<i>Total Points in Pronunciation Track</i>	<i>160 points</i>
Supplemental Coaching	
Meet one-on-one with a coach: Session focus: topics not directly related to pronunciation like defining terms, explaining concepts, etc. Two 50-minute sessions	20 points
Complete online coaching lessons from areas outside of the Pronunciation Track. Lessons suggested for you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defining terms- Question handling- Fluency building	30 points
Attend group coaching: One 50-minute session on questions	10 points
<i>Total Points in Supplemental Coaching</i>	<i>60 points</i>
<i>Total Points</i>	<i>230 points</i>
Note: Only 200 points are required, but this list includes all the activities recommended for you. You do not need to complete every single activity, and you can also complete additional activities that are not included in this list. At least 150 points should be earned from the Pronunciation Track.	

Note: This course does not apply towards the Minor in Education.