University of California, Irvine
Academic English 29: Special Topics—Advanced Conversation (29288)
2:00-2:50pm Lab: M—► HH 207 Class: W/F —► HH 118

Texts:  
- *Q: Skills for Success, Listening and Speaking, Level 4*  
- *Longman Advanced American Dictionary* (recommended, optional)

Materials:  
- *Academic English ESL Oral Communications Handbook (OCH)* (available at ET 203)  
- *American Speech Sounds* (available for use in lab only)

**Course Description:** Academic English 29 Advanced Conversation is an oral communications class focusing on helping non-native speakers build both fluency and accuracy in their speaking and listening skills. The course includes a review of pronunciation, intonation, stress, and grammar rules; however, special emphasis is given to class discussions based on themes from the textbook. This will enable students to practice and develop the skills necessary to communicate more effectively in academic and professional situations.

Class activities include participating in class discussions and debates, conducting interviews, and presenting information to large and small groups. Work on pronunciation and listening skills will take place mostly during lab classes held in the Academic English Instructional Resource Center (HIRC) in Academic English Hall 207. Lab work will include digitized recordings that will be posted on a class website and commented on by the instructor.

**Course Requirements:**
- Preparation for and participation in all class activities;
- Completion of assigned homework, including recordings;
- Completion of the Academic English ESL Oral Communications Handbook confirming independent lab work and providing a student record of speaking, listening, and vocabulary development;
- An average of 75% on quizzes or all make-up work done;
- Satisfactory performance on the final.

**Attendance & Participation:** You are expected to attend all class meetings. Because of the interactive nature of this course, your full participation is crucial to your success. Each class meeting you will receive one point for arriving on time (no more than ten minutes late) and another point for participating. If you are late, you can still earn the participation point. If you arrive on time, but do not participate, you will only earn one point. If you are absent, you will lose the two points for the class session. If you miss a class you are expected to contact a classmate to find out what was missed. More than four unexcused absences and/or failure to complete recommended work may result in an incomplete (I) or a non-passing grade (NP).

**Quizzes:**
- There will be six listening comprehension quizzes. Any score below 75% on a quiz must be made up during independent time in the lab.
- There will be three to four quizzes on the phonetics/pronunciation/vocabulary/expressions from *Q Level 4 or American Speech Sounds*, and class discussions.
Presentations: Students are required to complete a short presentation in front of the class. The speeches will be taped and reviewed by the instructor. You will also be evaluated by your classmates and yourself after viewing the presentation. I will assign the topics for the presentation and give you feedback.

Homework: You will have homework weekly. You are responsible for completing it prior to arriving in class, as it will be the basis for class work. In addition, you must keep your OCH up-to-date.

Outside Class Practice: You are required to practice English pronunciation outside of class. In addition to conversations with native speakers, you are required to attend the Language Lab (HH 269/207/217) on your own time for a total of SEVEN hours this quarter. Here you will work on listening practice which I will assign from our texts or other sources. You will keep track of these hours in your handbook.

Tutoring: Individual or group tutoring may be available to you through the Academic English ESL Program.

Academic English ESL website: [http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/](http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/)


LARC website: [www.larc.uci.edu](http://www.larc.uci.edu)