SYLLABUS-Math 8306
Academic Communication for Intermediate ESL Math TAs
Fall Semester 2013

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Class times: 12:05 – 12:55 M W
Skiles 257

Class communication is primarily through the course T-Square site.

In this class, you will work on fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness in spoken communication in order to be prepared to participate more effectively and confidently in your academic communities. The content of this course focuses on classroom and academic speaking tasks.

This course is tailored to the needs of the individual students who register for the course; therefore, it _may include any of the following topics_ depending on the needs of the students:

TOPICS:
1. **Work towards increased intelligibility in a North American context:**
   - Pausing appropriately and effectively
   - Linking words
   - Stressing content words and reducing function words
   - Establishing focus words
   - Using intonation and word stress to communicate meaning
   - Pronouncing vowels and consonants clearly (as needed)

2. **Practice various teaching speaking tasks:**
   - Meeting a new person or acquaintance
   - Appropriate "Small Talk" with students
   - Field-specific vocabulary
   - Defining complex terms: short & long definitions
   - Asking & answering questions
   - Impromptu language
   - Agreeing & Disagreeing
   - Using classroom technology

3. **Practice various academic speaking tasks:**
   - Introducing a speaker at a conference or professional talk
   - Introducing yourself at a conference/ beginning an academic talk
   - Effective PowerPoint presentations
   - Oral defense techniques
   - Preparing & explaining a visual
   - Terminology for figures
   - Body language for professional presentations

4. **Achieve greater confidence in speaking:**
   - Practicing impromptu and improvisational speaking
   - Interviewing and being interviewed (questioning and responding)
   - Engaging in "small-talk" and conversational skills

5. **Produce non-verbal language appropriately as both a speaker and a listener:**
   - Producing natural nonverbal language (i.e., gestures, facial expressions, eye contact, vocal quality)
   - Building a rapport with the audience
   - Giving oral summaries
   - Developing questions
   - Asking and paraphrasing questions
   - Re-directing questions

6. **Other Content:**
   - Using resources on the GT Campus
   - Guest speakers
   - Math Horizons seminars

MATERIALS
Materials will be provided by the instructor. Students' own materials may also be used for instruction, for example, student-generated PowerPoint slides for practicing pronunciation in context.

GRADING:
This is a Pass/Fail course. To pass this class and receive credit, you must attend all the classes and tutoring sessions. You must complete all assignments at a satisfactory level.

TUTORIALS:
One-on-one tutoring will be incorporated into the course. The tutoring schedule will be determined by the students' schedules. **You are responsible for scheduling these conferences with the instructor.**

*If you cannot attend an appointment, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible to reschedule. Instructor availability is limited and a canceled appointment can result in a conference that cannot be rescheduled.

CLASS GUIDELINES:
In order to work effectively in this class, please observe the following:
- Complete the speaking assignments on time.
- Email or call me to inform me of an absence.
- Be punctual for class.
- Check your email and the course T-Square site daily.
- **Organize and bring course materials to every class.**

GT HONOR CODE
Please refer to the Georgia Tech Honor Code for information and guidance on the requirements of student behavior:

www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9

USEFUL LINKS:

For Pronunciation of Specific Consonants and Vowels:
http://www.uiowa.edu/
http://international.ouc.bc.ca/

For Work with Rhythm and Intonation
http://www.americanrhetoric.com/
http://www.ted.com/
http://www.academicearth.org/
http://www.npr.org/