

English for Academic Purposes (A): Spoken Communication

英语听说交流 (A)

Course #14201092

Spring Semester, 2024

Teacher: Kamlesh Patel

WeChat: See Web Learning (网络学堂) notice (will be available from Week 2)

Office Hour: Mondays from 12:15pm by appointment

Office: 明理 208D

I. Course description

English for Academic Purposes (A): Spoken Communication is a learner-centred course at the intermediate to advanced level (CEFR B2-C1), where students continue to develop their academic skills in listening and speaking.

The course focuses on both listening (language input) and speaking (language output) to help students build confidence and improve essential skills for effective communication on academic topics and global issues.

II. Skill focus

Listening:

Understand and evaluate highly-informative spoken discourse (e.g., news, TED talks, lectures, debates).

- Note taking
- Summarising
- Inferring speaker's attitude and intentions
- Others may include: expanding vocabulary, understanding fast speech and advanced sound features

Speaking:

Build confidence. Express personal views in a logical and persuasive manner. Improve clarity, fluency, and accuracy.

(1) Presentation skills

- Conducting research
- Structuring a talk
- Presenting statistics & referring to sources
- Engaging the audience
- Dealing with the Q&A session

(2) Seminar skills

- Expressing agreement & disagreement
- Weighing different perspectives
- Asking for clarification
- Clarifying or defending one's own ideas
- Leading a seminar

III. Course Tasks

Task A – News Broadcasts (10 items, 5%)

This is a recording task (audio only). You will be given a newspaper article. Imagine that you are a newscaster. Practice broadcasting the news before you record yourself. Upload your recording to Tsinghua Web Learning (网络学堂) as required.

Task B – Express oneself (3 items, 25%)

This is a recording task (video). Express your own view on the assigned piece of news (from Task A), giving supporting evidence. The score will be given based on the quality of speaking and the analysis of the news article. End the recording with a question for your classmates to discuss or debate.

The recording should be between 2 to 3 minutes in length (including the question).

Task C – Group Projects (C1 = 15%; C2 = 15%)

C1 - An in-class group task involving creativity. Based upon Rube Goldberg design. Each group will introduce their design to the rest of the class in a relaxed and informal presentation.

C2 – Examining figurative language used in the lyrics of popular music songs. Each student will individually interpret their own chosen song lyrics (a homework task). You will have a chance to share your interpretation to your group during class.

Task D – Individual TED talk (30%)

Each student will have the chance to give their own original TED talk (no ppt). The duration of your speech should be 3 to 4 minutes. After your speech, you will answer questions from the audience.

More details will be given during class.

IV. Evaluation

Task A News Broadcasts	5%
Task B Express oneself	25%
Task C Group Projects (C1 = 15%; C2 = 15%)	30%
Task D Individual TED talk	30%
Active class participation:	10%

V. Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Class Content	Homework
1	2024-02-27	Introduction	
2	2024-03-05	Pronunciation and introduction of TASK A	A1
3	2024-03-12	Introduction of TASK B	A2; B1
4	2024-03-19	Group TASK C1 - An in-class group task involving creativity. Based upon Rube Goldberg design	A3; Prepare for the informal activity to be given in the next class
5	2024-03-26	Group TASK C1 - Each group to show their design (informal); Group discussion of B1	A4
6	2024-04-02	Group TASK C2 - Looking at the meaning of song lyrics (figurative language)	A5; Analyse the lyrics of a song to develop your interpretation
7	2024-04-09	Group TASK C2 - Share your interpretation to others in your group	A6; B2
8	2024-04-16	Introduction of individual TASK D (TED talk); Group discussion of TASK B2	A7; view TED videos
9	2024-04-23	Discussion of TASK D (TED talk)	A8; B3
10	2024-04-30	NO CLASS	
11	2024-05-07	Group discussion of TASK B3	A9
12	2024-05-14	Review	A10; Prepare for Task D
13	2024-05-21	TASK D - Individual TED talk	
14	2024-05-28	TASK D - Individual TED talk	
15	2024-06-04	TASK D - Individual TED talk	
16	2024-06-11	TASK D - Individual TED talk	

VI. Attendance and participation

Regular attendance and active participation are essential to your success in this course, and play a role in grading.

Absences from more than three classes may result in your failure in the course. Late Arrivals: Please arrive on time. If you are not on time, you are tardy. If you are late two times, this will be considered as one absence.

An excused absence requires an officially stamped letter from your department.

VII. Academic Honesty Policy

As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The University assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. See the Tsinghua Student Handbook for details.