LING 380-0-22: Fall 2011
Spoken English for Non-Native Speakers
Course Syllabus

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 5:00-6:20
Location: 2121 Sheridan Rd, Room 231
Office Hours: by appointment
Instructor: Lisa Hesterberg
Office: Cresap 115
e-mail: lisah@u.northwestern.edu

Course Description: The goal of this class is to improve your ability to communicate in spoken American English by developing greater fluency and intelligibility. The course will focus on the sounds, rhythms and phrasing of spoken English through various elements of American culture.


Enrollment: Class size is limited to 15 students in order to allow for maximum individual attention. Auditors must ask for permission to join the class, and approval is granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Graduate students received first priority, and post-docs, visiting scholars and NU staff are accepted as space allows. Pass/No Credit is strongly encouraged. Please see me if you plan to take this class for a letter grade (A, B, etc.).

Learning Environment: This course is intended to be a place where students can raise questions about language and cultural issues, as well as share your experiences as an international student. Please be respectful of your classmates’ questions and comments, and please do not hesitate to ask questions. Please remember that each student entering the class has different skills and levels of spoken English proficiency. The goal of this class is to practice speaking as much as possible, so please do not be afraid to make mistakes!

Class Policies: Obviously, the best way to improve your English is through practice. Therefore, to get the most out of this class you need to actively participate. Attendance is very important. If for some reason you are unable to attend class, please notify me before that class session.

Assignments & Grading:
Class participation & attendance: 60%
Homework assignments: 20%
Presentations: 20% (10% each)
Peer pronunciation assessments:

- **Recording**: Each student will record a short passage and upload it to the course website. If you do not have a program to record yourself on your computer, please email me and we can meet to do the recording. The first recording will be of the two paragraphs on pages 1-3 of *Well Said*. The second recording will be of two paragraphs of a newspaper/magazine article of your choice; you must also upload the written paragraphs to the course website. I will review each student’s recording and give feedback on it.

- **Assignment**: Each student will review the recordings of two classmates and give feedback. The first evaluation is due 10/5 and the second is due 11/16. I will email you to tell you which recordings to assess.

Presentations:

- **Midterm presentations (10/20 & 10/25)**: Students will write two short speeches to introduce themselves, one to professionals and students in their field and the other to people outside of their field. Each speech will be 2-3 minutes long.

- **Final presentations (11/29 & 12/1)**: Students will present on a topic of their choice for 5-6 minutes. They will be evaluated on overall fluency and skills learned in class.