

COURSE OUTLINE
I-2017

Name: Oral Communication I	Requisites: LM-1002
LM-1230	Co-requisites:
Credits: 5	Cycle: III
Schedule: 6 hours / week in-class work 15 hours / week out-of-class work	Type: <i>Plan de Estudios</i> B. A. in English and B. A. and <i>Profesorado</i> in English Teaching
Level: Second year	

I. DESCRIPTION

This communicative course is the first of six required oral communication courses for students in the BA in English and the BA and *Profesorado* in English Teaching undergraduate programs. This is an intermediate course through which students will further improve the oral communication, listening, and reading skills introduced in the first year of the major(s). This course will prepare students to communicate their ideas on the contents discussed in class accurately and fluently in English at an intermediate level. Students will also be exposed to a variety of reading and listening materials that will promote discussion, and provide lexical and syntactical models. Fluency and accuracy will be emphasized equally. Students will use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a pronunciation tool with emphasis on the vowel sounds of the English language.

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students will:

1. develop basic public speaking and pronunciation skills;
2. talk about topics related to health issues and the environment;
3. incorporate the lexicon and structures presented in the listening and reading passages in their speech;
4. use a variety of listening and reading strategies (note taking, summarizing, guessing meaning from context, skimming, scanning, paraphrasing, and others);
5. recognize the sounds of the English language in different linguistic contexts with emphasis on vowels;
6. produce the sounds of the English language in different linguistic contexts with emphasis on vowels;

7. use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transcribe high-frequency and topic-related words;
8. develop critical thinking skills.

III. CONTENTS

A. Topics for discussion

1. Introduction to public speaking skills
2. Health issues
3. The environment

B. Pronunciation contents

1. Theoretical introduction at a basic level (definitions of linguistics, phonology, phonetics, phoneme, allophone, minimal pairs, simple vowel, diphthong, the syllable—onset, coda, nucleus, rhyme—and stress)
2. The International Phonetic Alphabet (I.P.A. last version), symbols, and their names
3. Suggestions for the students (how to improve their pronunciation skills)
4. Phonetic transcriptions
5. Review of the pronunciation of –ed and –s endings
6. Classification of English vowels
7. The pronunciation of English vowels (The simple vowels: /ə/, /ʌ/, /i/, /ɪ/, /ɛ/, /æ/, /ɑ/, /ɔ/, /ʊ/, /u/, spelling correspondences, and diphthongs: /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /oʊ/, /aʊ/, /ɔɪ/)
8. The importance of word stress
9. Unstressed vowels and the obscuration rule

IV. METHODOLOGY

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and to do the assigned readings and exercises **in advance**. Content will be presented through readings, lectures, video and listening segments, reports, interviews, and others. Students are expected to participate actively through individual, pair, or group work. Students must take part in the following activities:

- A. small or whole group discussions and activities on the reading and listening passages,
- B. individual and pair-work in reading and listening comprehension exercises,
- C. presentation of group projects,
- D. analysis of phonetic exercises,
- E. transcription and reading of key words and phrases in and out of class.

V. EVALUATION

A. Oral Exam I (Tribunal) ¹	25%
B. Oral Exam II (Tribunal) ¹	25%
C. Group Project I (before oral exam I) ²	15%
D. Group Project II (before oral exam II) ²	15%
E. Quizzes-minimum 4 (listening, theory, transcription, lexicon, or oral)	20%

- ¹ These two exams will be done in front of two professors and will be recorded. Professors will bring a digital recorder the day(s) of the exam.
- ² For group projects, students must bring their own recording device.

Todo estudiante en todo curso queda sujeto a los reglamentos de evaluación de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Buckland, D. (2014). *Sugar vs Fat: Twin Brothers Take Radical Steps to Show the Real Impact of Our Fad Diets*. Retrieved January 28, 2015, from <http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/diets/456134/Sugar-vs-fat-Twin-brothers-take-radical-steps-to-show-the-real-impact-of-our-fad-diets>

Dale, P. & Poms, L. (2005). *English Pronunciation Made Simple*. NY: Pearson Education, Inc.

Ewing, R. (2013, October 02). Longline Fishery in Costa Rica Kills Thousands of Sea Turtles and Sharks. Retrieved February 27, 2017, from *Phys.org*, <https://phys.org/news/2013-10-longline-fishery-costa-rica-thousands.html>

Ferguson, W. (2011, May 11). Costa Rica's Pineapple Boom Unhealthy, Warn Experts. *The Tico Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.ticotimes.net/2011/05/26/costa-rica-s-pineapple-boom-unhealthy-warn-experts>

Fernandez, M. (2014, August 14). Costa Rica's Black Water Falls Short of Green Expectations. Retrieved February 27, 2017, from *Ecochronicle*, <https://ecochnicle.net/2014/08/13/costa-ricas-black-water-falls-short-of-green-expectations/>

Goldenberg, S., Vidal, J., Taylor, L., Vaughan, A., & Harvey, F. (2017, February 2). Paris Climate Deal: Nearly 200 Nations Sign-in End of Fossil Fuel Era. Retrieved February 28, 2016 from *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/12/paris-climate-deal-200-nations-sign-finish-fossil-fuel-era>

Lujan, B. (2002). *The American Accent Guide*. Utah: Lingual Arts.

Lynch, T. (2004). *Study Listening*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Breyer, M. (2010, May 11). Top 10 countries killing the planet. Retrieved February 28, 2017, from Care2, <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/top-10-countries-ruining-the-planet.html>

Prator, C. & Wallace, B. (1985). *Manual of American English Pronunciation*. New York: Harcourt Brace.

Van Tulleken, A. (2014). *One Twin Gave up Sugar, The Other Gave up Fat. Their Experiment Could Change YOUR Life*. Retrieved January 28, 2015, from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2546975/One-twin-gave-sugar-gave-fat-Their-experiment-change-YOUR-life.html#ixzz3Q9WvSVBD>

Welch, C. (2015, November 16) 2 Countries Reveal How Divided the World Is on Climate Change. Retrieved February 28,2017 from *National Geographic*, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/11/151116-paris-climate-un-costa-rica-australia-co2-greenhouse-warming-carbon/>

VII. OTHER RESOURCES

Other articles from several different sources.

Students are required to buy the pronunciation package and the two supplementary reading booklets (Health Issues & The Environment) in Copymundo.

A monolingual English dictionary is a must for the English major. It is recommended that students buy a dictionary that uses IPA symbols in their transcriptions such as Larousse or McMillan.

Tentative Course Syllabus: PART 1 (Health Issues)

Week 1 March 13 - 17	Course syllabus & ice breakers Group projects guidelines <i>Introduction to public speaking and successful group projects</i> Introduction to linguistics, the International Phonetic Alphabet & Phonetic Transcriptions
Week 2 March 20 - 24	Introduction to linguistics, the International Phonetic Alphabet & Phonetic Transcriptions
Week 3 March 27 - 31	<i>Reading: A User's Guide to Good Health at Every Age</i> Pronunciation, IPA transcriptions
Week 4 April 03 – 07	Pronunciation Status report due <i>Reading/Listening: The Oldest Old: A Look at Centenarians</i> <i>Videos: Centenarians</i>
April 10 - 14	Easter
Week 5 April. 17 -21	Pronunciation <i>Reading: One Twin Gave up Sugar, the Other Gave up Fat. Their Experiment Could Change YOUR Life</i> <i>Reading: Sugar vs Fat: Twin Brothers Take Radical Steps to Show the Real Impact of Our Fad Diets</i>
Week 6: April. 24 – 28	<i>Documentary: Sugar v Fat</i> Pronunciation
University Week	
Week 7 May. 01 - 05 May 01: Labor Day (no class)	Group Project Presentations (2 groups on Wed., 2 groups on Fri.)
Week 8 May 08 - 12	Group Project Presentations (2 groups on Mon.) <i>Reading: Goodnight. Sleep Clean.</i> <i>Listening: Brains Sweep Themselves Clean of Toxins</i>
Week 9 May 15 -19	Group Project II Assigned Oral Exam I

Tentative Course Syllabus: PART 2 (The Environment)

Week 10 May 22 – 26	Oral Exam I Feedback Pronunciation <i>Video: The Story of Stuff</i>
Week 11 May 29 – June 02	Pronunciation <i>Reading: Top 10 Countries Killing the Planet</i> <i>Reading: 2 Countries Reveal How Divided the World Is on Climate Change</i>
Week 12 June 05 – 09	Pronunciation <i>Reading: Costa Rica's Black Water Falls Short of Green Expectations</i> <i>Reading: Longline Fishery in Costa Rica Kills Thousands of Sea Turtles and Sharks</i> Status report due
Week 13 June 12 – 16	Pronunciation <i>Reading: Costa Rica's Pineapple Boom Unhealthy, Warn Experts</i> <i>Reading: Paris Climate Deal: Nearly 200 Nations Sign-in End of Fossil Fuel Era</i>
Week 14 June 19 – 23	Pronunciation <i>Documentary: Tapped</i> Group Project Presentations (2 groups on Fri.)
WEEK 15 June 26 – 30 (last week of classes)	Discussion on <i>Tapped</i> Group Project Presentations (2 groups on Mon., 2 groups on Wed.)
WEEK 16 July 03-07	ORAL EXAM II

IMPORTANT DATES

Oral Exam I: May 15 -19

Oral Exam II: July 03-07

Grades due: July 12-13

Ampliación Exam: July 19 (7 a.m.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. **Oral exams I and II** will be **10-12 minute** discussions in pairs. Questions will be chosen by the students at random from a set related to content studied in class.
2. **Group projects I and II** will be a **25-30-minute** presentation with 4 or 5 members. The topic will be chosen by the students and previously approved by the professor. Further instructions will be given along the semester.
3. Students must bring to class the reading and pronunciation packets, and a good monolingual English dictionary **at all times**.
4. All content (reading/ listening passages and presentations) will be evaluated and included in quizzes and/or oral exams.
5. There **will not** be any make-up quizzes or presentations unless there is a valid justification (health problems or death of family member).
6. *No interruptions or late arrivals will be permitted during presentations.* The door will be locked during presentations.
7. Students who read or memorize the content of their presentations will automatically obtain a **5.0 or lower**.
8. Cell phones or any other electronic devices must always be kept off and put away.
9. Students must know and study the "*Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de la Universidad de Costa Rica*," and should pay special attention to the following norms regarding plagiarism (called "*fraude*" in the "*Reglamento*") and evaluation procedures.

Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica

ARTICULO 4. Son faltas **muy graves**:

g) Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier otra índole.

j) Plagiar, en todo o en parte, obras intelectuales de cualquier tipo.

k) Presentar como propia una obra intelectual elaborada por otra u otras personas, para cumplir con los requisitos de cursos, trabajos finales de graduación o actividades académicas similares.

ARTICULO 5. Son faltas graves:

c) Copiar de otro estudiante tareas, informes de laboratorio, trabajos de investigación o de cualquier otro tipo de actividad académica.

ARTICULO 9. Las faltas serán sancionadas según la magnitud del hecho con las siguientes medidas:

a) Las faltas muy graves, con suspensión de su condición de estudiante regular no menor de seis meses calendario, hasta por seis años calendario.

b) Las graves con suspensión de quince días lectivos a seis meses calendario.

ARTÍCULO 22. Debe observarse el siguiente procedimiento, en relación con la calificación, entrega e impugnación de los resultados de cualquier prueba de evaluación, salvo disposición expresa en contrario:

a) El profesor debe entregar a los alumnos las evaluaciones calificadas y todo documento o material sujeto a evaluación, a más tardar **diez días hábiles** después de haberse efectuado las evaluaciones y haber recibido los documentos.