Course description: This course is designed to help newly arrived graduate students from a variety of disciples to improve their spoken English communication skills. This course will begin to familiarize you with topics related to American academic culture as well as the kinds of speaking activities most often required of graduate students such as presentations and seminars. Participants will take turns being responsible for leading the latter. Final presentations will be in the form of a mini-conference during which participants will make short presentations on problem-solution topics chosen from their respective disciplines.


Online Resource: see Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab (OWL) https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/visual_rhetoric/designing_effective_powerpoint_presentations/index.html for helpful information on creating an effective PowerPoint Presentation

Assignments: Assignments and course activities will consist of class discussions, video logs (vlogs), short presentations, seminar discussions, readings from the text, and pronunciation practice. Daily activities and assignments may vary depending on the needs of students in this class.

Grading: This class is graded pass/no pass. Your final grade will be an average of all graded assignments. If you have 83% or higher, you will pass.

Attendance: Attendance of all class meetings is mandatory. More than 4 absences will result in automatic failure of the course. In the event that you are unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstance or an emergency, please contact your instructors as soon as possible, preferably before class.

Academic Integrity: Students, are expected to have a high level of integrity. Anyone caught breaking UNL’s student code of conduct will receive a zero on the assignment / test. Examples of dishonesty are as follows: copying answers from another person’s paper, such as a test, homework, lab assignment, quiz; asking other students for answers and then writing them down; using notes or any other aids in tests or quizzes without the expressed permission of the instructor; turning in someone else’s work as your own; doing your work in class while the teacher is going over the answers; and writing information from a book, paper, online resource, or other sources as if they were your own words without giving credit to the actual author. Instances of plagiarism (copying or taking ideas from a source without proper attribution) will not be tolerated. For more about academic integrity, see UNL’s Student Code of Conduct, “Rules and Regulations, article III, section “B.” https://studentconduct.unl.edu/student-code-conduct
and The Office of Graduate Studies statement on academic integrity [http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/integrity#about](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/integrity#about).

**Respectful Behaviors:** Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during class. When the instructor or classmates are speaking, you should be listening to them and not talking to others or engaging in other tasks. Please include everyone in the class by refraining from speaking in your native language.

**Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD):** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me (the instructor or teaching assistant) for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 117 Louise Pound Hall, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

**Tentative Course Schedule:** *

Week One: Introduction to course; Seminar method of instruction in graduate school. Giving academic presentations. Unit one – Giving an Introduction Speech,. First presentation and VLOG.

Week Two: Continue seminar discussions. Pronunciation workshops: troublesome consonants and vowels, syllable stress. Unit two – Describing and comparing objects and visuals. Second presentation and VLOG.

Week Three: Continue seminar discussions. Pronunciation workshops: supra-segmentals including thought groups, focus words, sentence-level stress patterns. Unit 3: Explaining a process or procedure. Third presentation and VLOG.

Week Four: Continue seminar discussions. Unit 4: Giving a Problem-solution speech. Prepare for mini-conference. Final VLOG.

* Specific assignments will be made daily and will be dependent upon the needs of students in this section.