IELI 2410 – Comprehending Lecture Discourse

Fall 2020

Instructor Contact & Course Details

Instructor: Nolan Weil
E-mail: nolan.weil@usu.edu
Office Hrs: by appointment
Mode: Online asynchronous plus periodic whole-class Zoom Conference and individual student/professor conferences as needed. Whole-class times: T-TH 10:30-11:45

Important Dates:
Aug 31 New Student Orientation
Sept 1 First Day of Class
Sept 7 Labor Day Holiday
Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Dec 10 Last Day of Class

About the Course. Students often find it difficult to understand university lectures, and not always because they do not understand the words and the sentences. Often, the problem is that students cannot identify the important points of the lecture.

In this course, you will learn about the structure of academic lectures and presentations, and you will become more aware of the language that lecturers use to signal that structure. This awareness will help you improve your understanding of—and memory for—the content of academic lectures. You will also learn techniques for taking concise notes on the main ideas and the details of lectures.

While the primary focus of the course is to build skill in listening to university classroom lectures, we will listen to many other types of materials, such as educational video media, like the kinds of things you can find everywhere on channels like YouTube. Although these materials may differ from ‘straight’ university lectures, some types are similar enough to be useful, and they are often more interesting.

Finally, although our primary aim is to learn how to listen to lectures in a more effective manner, we have a secondary aim as well: To learn cool and interesting things about various aspects of the world in which we live. In other words, this is a course in which we will treat the content that we listen to as important for our general education.

Equipment Needed to Participate
- Internet & computer (or access to computer lab)
- A binder to organize and keep course notes (recommended)
- Earbuds or head phones for distraction-free listening (recommended)

Schedule. This is a blended course. Some of the instruction will be asynchronous, meaning that there will be no fixed time to meet. I will post and give written or sometimes video recorded explanations of the assignments via CANVAS. (You are responsible for setting your CANVAS notifications to receive timely updates, as well as accessing CANVAS daily to work on and submit assignments before their submission deadlines.)

We may also have occasional whole-class meetings via Zoom for the purpose of discussing ongoing projects and clarifying any confusions that may arise about assignments. We will negotiate the times for these meetings according to everyone’s availability. I will also arrange individual conferences with each member of the class to discuss your work and help you improve your writing.

Expected Learner Outcomes
After listening to a videotaped recording of a university lecture, students . . .

1. recognize the various organizational features and discourse structures of the lecture including:
   a) discourse markers and b) organizational sequences
2. take notes that reflect organization and content of the lecture. Notes may employ . . . a) key word outlines, b) bulleted lists, c) visual representations, d) other self-developed systems
3. demonstrate understanding of lecture content by completing tasks such as . . . a) filling in concept maps, b) answering questions, c) applying the content to situations, d) summarizing the content

IELI Policies and Practices

Participation Policy
Developing academic language ability requires that you actively participate in your classes. If you do not regularly access assigned materials, engage in course activities, and complete assignments, you will miss important opportunities to meet course objectives, and it is likely that you will fail the class and not progress to the next level in the IELI program.

Grading
The grades you get for each class are based on the work you do for that class. Task completion is important for successful learning but completion alone is not a guarantee that you will earn an A in every class. The quality of your work and your ability to demonstrate significant progress in meeting course objectives is also necessary. A’s and B’s are generally regarded as good grades in the United States and C’s are acceptable (even if students do not prefer them). It is important for you to do your best on all in-class and at home activities as your grade will depend on the degree to which you are able to demonstrate achievement of course objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>68-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-67%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;63%</td>
<td>F</td>
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You must earn at least a C- to pass any IELI course.

Progressing to the next level
You must receive a grade of C- or better in any IELI class in order to pass that class and move to the next level of that class. Students who receive lower than a C- are required to repeat the class until they receive a passing grade. If you are not passing a class at mid-term you will be re-registered for the class until final grades are posted. If your final grade shows that you passed the class, you will be moved up into the next level or the class will be dropped.

If you want to check on how well you met the learner outcomes for each class, there are two ways to do so: 1) you can get a copy of the student achievement form from the IELI staff assistants or 2) you can access your grade on the USU website and then compare the grade to the Grade Descriptions on the IELI website (Current Students -> Academics-> Grade Descriptions).

In-term evaluations
Your professor will keep you informed of your progress throughout the semester by posting in a timely way on CANVAS the outcomes of all assignments. At midterm, your professor will assign you a letter grade. If you are doing work at a level lower than C in any of your classes, your professor will meet with you to discuss what you will need to do to pass the class.

University Policies
COVID-19 Policies. Students should be familiar with and should follow up-to-date policies regarding Covid-19 as found at https://usu.edu/covid-19.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Students with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act states: “Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille.”