

## **LSCM 0350: Speaking and Listening**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Office: By  
Appointment

(561) 201- 8481

Thursdays, 6:00- 8:00 pm (West Palm Beach)

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### **Course Description**

This course is designed for English as Second Language (ESL) students who need to develop better listening comprehension and oral skills, which will primarily be achieved by detailed instructions on pronunciation.

### **Student Objectives:**

- To improve in clear pronunciation of English vocabulary, particularly in use of words often found within the environment of Christian ministry.
- To learn some basic rules for “decoding” printed English so that the student can pronounce the words correctly aloud.
- To learn some basic rules for “listening” to spoken English, also for “decoding” purposes.
- To be able to (1) produce accurate and intelligible English, (2) become more comfortable listening to rapidly spoken English. These skills are particularly useful in a multilingual community where students use English in their Christian ministry, even though English is their second (or perhaps third) language.

**Textbook:** Gilbert, Judy B., *Clear Speech: Pronunciation and Listening Comprehension in North American English, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. (Student's Book)*. Cambridge University Press, 2005. (The ISBN number is 0 521 54354 1.) This book comes with a Student CD attached to the inside back cover. This CD will be more valuable if the student plays it in off-campus hours in preparation or review. (**Note:** Try looking for this book in Barnes & Noble or Borders book stores. You can also order it from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or other online booksellers.)

### Course Methodology

1. Activities in listening, so the student can “translate” what is heard into understanding of the speaker’s word-meanings. Acquiring listening skills is frustrating. This is because successful listening skills are acquired over time and with lots of practice
2. Activities in practicing English pronunciation to at least approximate the way a “word is said” in American English.
3. Activities to teach word groups, minimal pairs as far as spelling, use of vowels, etc. Practicing minimal pairs, for example, can help students localize the often minute differences in pronunciation between one word and another.
4. Activities to practice spoken use of English in specific life situations.
5. Learning activities that foster a collaborative atmosphere.
6. Students will listen to practice exercises on CD, work with partners in one-on-one speaking/listening, and create short essays to describe what they have heard in specified listening exercises. Class exercises will be creative and varied in format, so that student’s effort will bring enjoyment as well as increased confidence in the use of English as a second language.

### Course Requirements

1. In order to achieve the student potential at college level, required class attendance is very important.
2. Students will be allowed a maximum of 3 absences during the semester. When the quota has been exceeded, an automatic F will be assigned.
3. If absences are for emergencies, the F may be appealed.
4. Because the skills learned in this course are cumulative (each class discussion builds on the previous class discussions and skills practice), it is important to maintain regular class attendance. It’s the consistent practice in listening to spoken English and in practice of pronunciation that will bring improvement. Using the student CD as preparation will also enable the student to get more out of each class.

5. Students will be assessed on the basis of demonstrated improvement in comprehension and expression. The student who adequately demonstrates improvement will receive credit for the course with a passing grade. Regular graded (pass/fail) exercises such as: quizzes, writing and speaking assignments, class participation, and a final exam will give the student the opportunity to demonstrate skills that have improved throughout the semester.

The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Quizzes	30%
Speaking and writing assignments	25%
Participation	15%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Final grade	100%

6. Students will participate in small groups to practice, and are encouraged to use the language both inside and outside the class setting.
7. Students need to complete all assignments by the due date, and participate in all class discussions.

### **Additional Information**

This syllabus may be adjusted based on the needs and interests of the class. List of words from the environment of Christian ministry will be provided occasionally and related to the unit being studied.

### **Course Schedule for Speaking and Listening**

**Thursday, August 23:** Unit 1: Syllables. Introducing syllables, sample dictation exercise: how many syllables? Do you hear...? Interpreting a speaker's meaning from the WAY the words are said (Tone of voice, body language, etc.)

**Thursday, August 30:** Unit 2: Vowels and vowel rules. Introducing vowels; which words have the same vowel sounds; which word is different? Alphabet vowel sounds/relative vowel sounds; listening to contrasting vowels in sentences, etc.

**Thursday, September 13:** Unit 3: Word stress and vowel length. Words that sound alike but are spelled differently. Degree of vowel length; listening for vowel length; Map game. Role-playing. Bring a large picture from a magazine or newspaper.

**Thursday, September 20:** Unit 4: Word stress and word clarity. Contrasting clear and

reduced vowels,; identifying stress in multi-syllable words. Books of the Bible. Bring a large-sized advertisement from a newspaper or magazine.

**Thursday, September 27:** Unit 5: Word stress patterns. Stress in two-syllable words; stress in words that end in -tion and -ician; -ic and ical; stress in two-syllable nouns and verbs. Levels of language: formal, informal, slang. Bring an example of an English slang word or phrase that you have heard.

**Thursday, October 4:** Unit 6: Sentence Focus: Emphasizing content words. Emphasis in sentences; emphasizing a word; Visiting a public library. Dictation.

**Thursday, October 11 :** Unit 7: Sentence Focus: De-emphasizing structure words: contradictions. Bible geography words. Small group discussion period, followed by a report: saying contradictions.

**Thursday, October 25:** Unit 8: Choosing the focus word. Pair work: Dialogues; pair work: disagreement; Making a Top Ten list. The Newspaper Reporter's top five words.

**Thursday, November 1:** Unit 9 Emphasizing structure words. Dialogue: Emphasizing "and" and auxiliary verbs. Role-playing skits. Words related to holidays in the U.S

**Thursday, November 8:** Unit 10: Continuants and stops (*s* and *t*). Which word is different; which word do you hear? Writing a business letter in English.

**Thursday, November 15:** Unit 11: Continuants and stops (*r*, *d*, *l*). Pair work: past or present? Practicing vowel rules with /r/, /d/, and /l/. How to plan a speech in English to a small group/large group.

**Thursday, November 29:** Units 12& 13: Voicing. Voiced and voiceless sounds for spelling -th- Voicing and syllable length. Final voiced and voiceless stops; pair work: Map game. Creative writing. Dictation.

**Thursday, December 6:** Unit 14: Sibilants and Chap. 15: Thought groups. Words related to Christmas celebration. Role-playing.

**Thursday, December 13:** Final Exam

## **Bibliography**

Anderson, Anne & Tony Lynch, (1988) Listening, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Morley, Joan, (2001), "Aural comprehension instruction: principles and practices", in Marianne Celce-Murcia (ed.), Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language, 3rd Edition, Boston: Heinle & Heinle

Underhill, Adrian, (1984), Sound Foundations, Oxford: Macmillan Heinemann

Vandergrift, L, (1999), "Facilitating second language listening comprehension: acquiring successful strategies", ELT Journal, 53(3), 168-176

Zhao, Y., (1997) "The effects of listeners' control of speech rate on second language comprehension", Applied Linguistics, 18, 49 – 68

## **Important Sites**

- NIV Bible. The online text of the New International version of the Bible, good for ESL/EFL students to read and listen.
- NIV Bible Download. Excellent MP3 files of the New International Version of the Bible.
- Audio Bibles. Choose a version
- ESL Robot. Practice speaking English, free writing with an intelligent robot.
- 365 Short Stories. Listen to interesting short stories written for ESL learners.
- Short Stories for ESL Learners. Listen to the 100 short stories, and do the questions & answers, dictation exercises.
- Free Mobile English. Access the free website through your cellphones or mobile devices and practice listening and speaking on the go.

## Other Sites

- [Voice of America Webcasts](#). Special English for English learners in the world.  
[Learning English Video Lectures](#). More than 100 short videos on many different topics.
- [History Channel - Video and Speeches](#). Video and audio of famous speeches in history.