

Did you know....?

The AU English as a Second Language Program
offers special classes
to help prepare international students
for the American classroom:

ENGL 1800, Oral Proficiency for International Students, is offered specifically for international students—both undergraduate and graduate—to work on improving their oral communication skills. This course, offered pass/fail three days per week during fall semester for 3 credit hours, uses contemporary issues as a springboard for discussion and listening activities. Group projects, presentations, and debates prepare students to understand and participate in academic discourse in the American classroom.

ENGL 1820, Classroom Communication Skills for International Teaching Assistants, is required for ITAs who have scored 40 or less on the TSE and should be considered as an option for every ITA/GRA who might need an orientation to the American classroom as a student *and* teacher. This course, usually two days per week, offered both fall and spring, is a fantastic opportunity for students to observe model teaching, discuss classroom and departmental issues, and “practice” teach before they begin teaching in the AU classroom or lab. Students present 4-5 times per semester just as they would to students to a critiquing audience. Each presentation is followed by a conference with the instructor to get individual, specific feedback on not only their presentation style and content, but also their language skills. The class is pass/fail, 3 credit hours.

ENGL 1900, Written Proficiency for International Students, is offered every spring, 3 contact hours per week, for both undergraduate and graduate students who wish to improve their written communication skills. The class serves as a kind of pre-composition class for undergraduates and as a refresher course in writing (both content and grammar) and research for graduate students. The class does not focus on writing theses or dissertations, but will provide instruction in the necessary skills to complete these academic requirements. Students will learn to conduct research, organize and support their ideas, and revise their writing.

To learn more about these courses, to inquire about other ways the ESL Program can support international students in their effort to improve their English, or to inquire about how the ESL Program can support international programs in your department, contact:

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