

Semester: FALL 2012
Course: SPE 271/273
Instructor: C. Rachel Nove
Meets: Monday 1:00 - 1:50
Room: 2323

Course Description

This practicum is designed to provide students with an opportunity to help international students/English Language Learners (ELLs) utilize and increase their English language skills. Additionally, students will maximize sensitivity and competence in communicating with speakers from other linguistic cultures. The student facilitator will meet with a group of 3 – 5 international students for one hour each week of the semester to facilitate directed and free conversation, with the purpose of helping the ELLs navigate the intricacies of the language.

For SPE 273: In addition to the practicum, the student will write a term paper addressing one of the foreign linguistic cultures represented in the group and comparing it to American English.

Competencies to be learned

For the international student/ELL:

- Be able to speak so that they are understood, or, if not understood, be able to use strategies for repeating and rephrasing messages.
- Listen carefully and know how and when to interrupt a speaker if they cannot comprehend messages.
- Know how to keep conversation going and when and how to terminate it.
- Learn various non-verbal and paralinguistic methods for sending and receiving messages.

For the facilitator:

- Be able to transcend cultural and linguistic boundaries; communicate effectively with a small group of students of diverse cultures.
- Facilitate conversation among a diverse group of English Language Learners.
- Analyze the individual linguistic needs of English Language Learners and support their acquisition of the English language via direct and indirect guidance and instruction.

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

Evaluation: The student will be evaluated on both practicum and written work:

- A. The student will be observed in his/her weekly meetings with his group.
- B. The student will post weekly blogs that reflect what happened in each session: An analysis of what happened in the student's group and his/her plans for the next session.

- C. Student will comment on peer blogs
- D. For SPE 273 only: The student will submit a research paper comparing and contrasting North American English with the linguistic culture of one of the members of his/her group.

Criteria:

- A. Weekly attendance and effective group communication and facilitation skills (15 sessions)
- B. Each journal/blog will be evaluated based on the demonstrated sensitivity to the linguistic and cultural needs that the student describes, and his/her plans for follow up on these needs.
- C. For SPE 273 only: The research paper should address comparative phonology, morphology, syntax, and non-verbal communication (including voice, proxemics, body language, etc.). The paper should be indicative of primary and secondary research tools.