

ESL 261/461: Low Advanced Listening and Speaking  
Winter Quarter 2025, De Anza College

Instructor: Iris Thot-Johnson  
Room: Zoom Meeting Wednesdays 6:30-8:20pm  
Zoom Link:

Office Hours: After Class (on Zoom) and Thursdays on Zoom  
from 3:45-4:15pm

Phone: Voicemail: 864-5678 X3187

Preferred method of contacting the instructor is by email:  
thotjohnsoniris@fhda.edu

Prerequisites:

A passing grade in ESL 251 or ESL 451 or a placement by the  
ESL Guided Self-Placement assessment.

Required Text:

Northstar 5 Listening and Speaking, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN:  
9780134280844)

Course Description:

This course will focus on developing your listening and speaking skills in American English in a variety of situations and discussions on different topics. Tasks and assignments include answering comprehension questions, taking notes on passages and academic lectures, as well as listening to newscasts, songs, conversations, and stories. Discussions will also be held on American customs and cultural attitudes and comparing/contrasting them to your own.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Produce comprehensible low advanced spoken English on academic topics through one-on-one, group and public speaking situations.

- 2) Demonstrate listening comprehension of a variety of level-specific materials, including academic lectures, newscasts, dialogues and stories by taking notes and answering questions.

#### Non-credit ESL Policy Statement:

All requirements and policies for noncredit classes are exactly the same as credit classes-including course content, assignments, grading, and attendance. Noncredit students are expected to come to every class, study, and do homework just like credit students.

#### Noncredit ESL Certificates:

You will receive the Certificate of Competency in English as a Second Language High Intermediate Level when you successfully pass ESL 451 and 455. The complete list of certificates can be found here: [Noncredit Courses](#)

#### AI (Artificial Intelligence) policy:

The AI policy in this class is as follows: You MAY use AI to look up information for your two SPEECHES. You may NOT use AI for ANYTHING ELSE (other assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.). THANK YOU!

#### Helpful Student Resources

1. De Anza College Student Support Services:

Website: <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess>

2. Writing & Reading Center - WRC (Location: ATC 309) - Drop in OR Individual Tutoring available!

- Academic Skills (Location: ATC 302)
- General Subject Tutoring (Location: ATC 304)
- Listening & Speaking (Location: ATC 313)
- Math, Science & Technology (Location: S43)

3. Health Services

Location: Hinson Campus Center, Lower Level

Website: <https://www.deanza.edu/healthservices/>

4. Disability Support Services

Location: LCW 110

Website: [Disability Support Services \(deanza.edu\)](https://www.deanza.edu/disability-support-services/)

5. Counseling and Advising Center

Location: Student & Community Services Building; 2nd Floor

Website: <https://www.deanza.edu/counseling/>

6. Library

Location: Library Building

Website: <https://www.deanza.edu/library/>

7. De Anza Associated Student Body (DASB) Senate

Location: Hinson Campus Center, Lower Level

Website: <https://www.deanza.edu/dasb>

Important Dates for Winter Quarter

January 6: Winter classes begin

January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - no classes; offices closed

February 14-17: President' Holiday - no classes; offices closed

February 28: Last day to drop classes with a W

March 24-28: Final Exams

**Final Exam in this class: March 26, 6:30-8:30pm**

Course Requirements:

You will succeed in this class by doing the following:

- **Attendance:** If you wish to improve your English, it is crucial that you come to every class and be on time. If you miss class any time during the first two weeks without contacting the instructor, you may be dropped in order to add another student from the wait list. If you

must miss a class, it is your responsibility to check our CANVAS page to see what you have missed. Also note, if you wish to drop the class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to do so.

You might find it helpful to get the names, phone numbers and email addresses of two of your classmates.

#1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*SINCE THIS IS AN ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS LISTENING AND SPEAKING COURSE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE YOUR VIDEO ON AND BE READY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AT ALL TIMES.

- *Homework Assignments:* You will have homework from our student text. You will turn this homework in at the end of the quarter.
- *Participation:* You will have many opportunities to work together in pairs or small groups. You must make every effort to participate in all classroom activities. Remember, the more you do, the more you will improve. I encourage you to be courageous, take risks and make mistakes! Anyone not participating fully will receive a lower participation grade.
- *Quizzes:* There will be weekly quizzes based on the chapters in our student text.
- *Exams:* You will take a midterm and a final which will include listening.
- *Public Speaking Situations:* You will give two oral presentations to the class. These will be on a topic which I will give you ahead of time. Your oral presentation should be memorized as much as possible, although the use of notes is allowed. However, points will be deducted for reading your presentation

entirely. Presentations should be NO LONGER than 1 minute each. You will be able to see the presentation guidelines on CANVAS.

- *Listening Journals:* You will be required to write weekly listening journals, which you will share in class. You will write one entry a week. You should write a one paragraph summary and a one paragraph response to something you listen to: a news story, a television program, a podcast, etc. You will turn your journal in once at the midterm and once at the end of the quarter. You should bring your journal to every class since you will be expected to share it with your classmates. Failure to bring your journal will affect your class participation and your journal grade. You will be able to see the journal guidelines on CANVAS.
- You will have occasional discussion questions in video format on CANVAS. You will have the chance to answer the question with an audio or a video of your own! 🗣️ Those who answer will get an extra participation point for each question which is answered.
- You will receive extra credit for joining Cross Cultural Partners. This program will match you with an English speaker so that you can practice talking and sharing your experiences! 😊

Criteria for Grading:

Class Participation	5%
Listening Journals	10%
Homework	10%
Public Speaking Situations	20%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%

Grading Scale:

98-100 = A+

92-97 = A  
90-91 = A-  
88-89 = B+  
82-87 = B  
80-81 = B-  
78-79 = C+  
70-77 = C  
68-69 = D+  
62-67 = D  
60-61 = D-  
0 -59 = F