

Public Speaking

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Course description

The 16-hour course is aimed at developing students' basic public speaking skills that are essential for presenting in global audiences. The course content focuses on the areas that might become a barrier to understanding Russian speakers' communication in English and undermine their rhetorical performance and sociocultural image. Special attention is paid to working on pronunciation and diction. By the end of the course the students will have learned how to:

- improve their accent to sound clearer
- warm up the body and voice before the presentation and use them effectively
- combat stage fright and build confidence and composure
- establish rapport with the audience
- use techniques to keep the audience interested
- handle Q&A session
- evaluate their performance and designate areas for self-development

Course requirements, grading, and attendance policies

Attendance

Regular attendance (over 12 academic hours), preparedness for each class and active in-class participation are crucial for making progress in this course.

Home assignments

Fulfilling home assignments is the most important prerequisite for succeeding in the course and failing to do them might fail the whole course. In case a student misses a class, s/he should inform the professor about it in advance and submit the completed assignment to the professor before the next class. Assignments, submitted after the deadline, but before the end of the course, will receive one grade lower. Later submissions are not accepted.

Grading

The grading breakdown:

Home assignments	60%
Quizzes (2)	10%
Final presentation	30%

Grade conversion table

Grade	%
5	> 90%
4	70% - 90%
3	60% - 70%
2	< 60%

Make-ups

One make-up is allowed for the final presentation during the two weeks after the final presentation assessment only in the following circumstances:

- if a student could not submit the final presentation for extenuating reasons
- if a student has got a "2" for the final presentation

Failed or missed quizzes can be rewritten on the date provided by the professor.

Course contents

The overall course duration is 16 contact academic hours, starting September 5 to October 24. Students attend classes once in two or three weeks, and each session lasts 4 academic hours. Individual skype consultations can be provided upon a student's request during the course.

To complete the course, students are required to prepare and videorecord a 6-minute presentation related to their professional field.

The themes of the course:

Clarity

- *English accent and Russian accent transfer*
- *Building confidence through breathing, relaxation and articulation exercises*
- *Combatting stage fright*
- *Posture and eye contact*
- *Diction*

Voice Power

- *Voice power*
- *Impact techniques*
- *Body language*
- *Audience profile*
- *Establishing rapport and credibility with the audience*
- *Effective openings and endings*
- *Techniques for keeping the audience interested*

Cohherence

- *Phrasing the central idea*
- *Determining the specific purpose*
- *Designating main points and a rhetorical strategy*

- *Link-ups*
- *Coherence and structure*

Q&A Session

- *Answering directly, clearly and concisely*
- *Clarifying questions/comments*
- *Acknowledging, repeating or rephrasing the questions*
- *Checking for satisfaction*
- *Hedging answers*
- *Assessment and Reflection*

Final test:

Make up a 6-minute speech related to your professional field, videorecord it and send for the feedback by the deadline.

Description of course methodology

The course will emphasize interactive teaching and learning practices that facilitate the development of both public speaking and communicative competence. Class activities will embrace presentation practice and communication tasks, while home assignments will entail work on pronunciation and presentation structure, short delivery assignments, and written tasks related to the course themes.

Every class is followed by oral and/or written home assignments which ensure student progress through the course. The course is rounded up by a 6-minute presentation. To complete the course successfully, the students should demonstrate the skills covered during the course in the final test. Besides the course assessment, the students will be provided with detailed final presentation feedback that will suggest ways for individual improvement.

Course materials

Required textbooks and materials

1. M. Powell, *Dynamic Presentations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
2. M. Powell, *Presenting in English*. Hampshire: Cengage Learning, 2012.
3. Materials prepared by the professor.
4. www.americanrhetoric.com
5. www.ted.com

Additional materials

1. A. Baker, *Ship or Sheep*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
2. C. Gallo, *Talk like TED*. Pan Books, 2014.
3. M. Hancock, *English Pronunciation in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
4. M. Hewings, *English Pronunciation in Use (Advanced)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES are not tolerated.