

MATH 8305 Syllabus

Aural-Oral English for Math Instructors: Fall 2026
(2 Credits)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Morag Harrell

Email: burke@math.gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

This course is for new Instructors in the School of Mathematics to provide support and assistance with communication for teaching in two main areas: language & cross-cultural aspects of teaching.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Become familiar with important aspects of English language communication with undergraduate students.
- Understand fundamental English language concepts for self-assessment and self-improvement.
- Develop specific pronunciation, grammar, and functional language skills required for teaching Math courses.
- Analyze and incorporate evaluation feedback into more effective communication.
- Understand cross-cultural differences, meanings, and contexts while teaching undergraduate students.

Required Course Materials

Course text:

Communicate: Strategies for International Teaching Assistants By: J. Smith, C. Meyers, and A. Burkhalter

The instructor will provide all course materials throughout the semester, including the textbook. Additional materials will be provided by the instructor. Student-generated materials may also be used for instruction. These will be uploaded into our Canvas course page and provided in class.

Grading Policy:

This course is graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale. Students who complete the course with an overall final score of 90% or higher will receive a grade of “S” in the course. The final grade will be computed as follows:

Attendance & Participation – 50%

Weekly Homework Assignments – 50%

Attendance means arriving to class on time and attending during the whole class time.

Participation means actively joining in-class learning assignments.

Description of Graded Components

Weekly homework assignments will be discussed in class before the assignments are due. Students will upload their homework into the course Canvas page. Assignments are due on Fridays & Mondays.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Class meetings will be very interactive. In order to make the course effective for all participants, it is important for everyone to come to class prepared and willing to fully participate in the class discussions. Therefore, attendance & participation are part of your course grade.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech’s Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable to this course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment

to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.