International TAs in UF Classrooms.

Gordon Tapper
Academic Spoken English, UF
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Outline.

• I. “Getting to know you.” Me, You, Them.
• II. US Classroom cultural norms (Rapport, Language, Pragmatics.)
• III. Culture quiz.
• Continuing cultural resources.
• References.
• “Good communication = good teaching = good communication.”
Me
Me, 3
You.

• Where are you from?
• Why are you at UF?
• Favorite hobby? Favorite sport to watch?
• What are you teaching (lab, lecture, discussion? When are you teaching (morning, pm, evening?) Apprehensive about teaching? If yes, why?

• Remember: YOU matter and you represent a unique cross-cultural resource for your students.
Activity 2: What do you know about your students?

- Age range.
- GPA
- Majors?
- Social/political attitudes?
- Learning preferences (group work/ solo, multimedia/textbook)?
- Educational background (preparation for your course)?
Your Students
“Generation Z”

- 4.35 AVG GPA -- Fall 2016 freshman @ UF
- 55% Caucasian and 45% other (Hispanic, African-Am, Asian, et. al.)
- Both younger and older than previous classes.
- “Digital natives.”
- Socially “liberal.” Same-sex marriage, ethnic diversity, post-2008 entrepreneurial/money oriented, sober realism (no-American dream).
- Church attendance up (41%)
- Risk averse (college debt, rule abiding.)
Gen Z (according to Wiki)

• “Generation Z college students prefer intrapersonal and independent learning over group work, yet like to do their solo work alongside others in a social manner when studying. They like their learning to be practical and hands-on and want their professors to help them engage with and apply the content rather than simply share what they could otherwise find on their own online.”
Digital Natives.

**Digital Immigrants**
- Prefer to talk in-person or on the phone
- Don’t text or only sparingly
- Prefer synchronous communication
- Prefer receiving information slowly: linearly, logically, & sequentially
- Prefer reading text (i.e., books) on processing pictures, sounds & video

**Digital Natives**
- Prefer to talk via chat, text, or messaging thru social media
- Text more than call
- Prefer asynchronous communication
- Prefer receiving information quickly & simultaneously from multiple multimedia & other sources
- Prefer processing /interacting with pictures, graphics, sounds & video before text

(Zur & Zur, 2011; Rosen, 2010; Prennsky, 2001)
Activity 3:

• How can you get your students to respect you as the “teacher”?  
• What kind of rapport/relationship do you want to have with your students?  
• What can you do to make your lectures very clear for your students?  
• Do you expect your students to be polite and friendly? How can you be perceived as polite and friendly?

- In the US, instructors/TAs attempt to build a positive “rapport” with their students.
  - Positively impacts student learning outcomes and teacher evaluations.
  - UF study (2015) – ITAs have limited rapport building strategies. Video of 30 ITAs at UF.
  - Webb and Barrett (2014) – “Student views of instructor-student rapport in the college classroom.” (See handout.)

• Cultural differences in classroom discourse.

1. Organizational Clarity -- Tyler (1994); Tapper, et. al. (2016) – US TAs use DMs (Discourse Markers) more frequently and more “richly” than ITAs.
   • “…and this is important, and you have to know this, and this is also really important.”
   • “Three key ideas...this is just an example of #2. So the three main ideas were?”

2. Responding to student questions. 3 - 4 step rule.


• Communication improves when we think that you are one of us.

• How to:
  – Apologize politely
  – Criticize politely (or not)
  – Ask a favor politely
  – Refuse a request politely
  – Express condolences or a compliment appropriately
Mini Summary

• Me, you, and them.
• US cultural norms regarding rapport building, classroom discourse, and pragmatics.
• Activity 3: How can you use this to create a good first impression for your students in the next two weeks?
Teaching and Culture Resources.

- UF Teaching Center – TA Development -- https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/ta-development/
- ASE website – http://ase.ufl.edu
- Independent Florida Alligator newspaper -- http://www.alligator.org
- Reitz Union Leisure Courses -- https://leisure.union.ufl.edu/#/
- NYTimes Sunday Book Review -- http://www.nytimes.com/section/books/review
- Classroom Pragmatics competence -- https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teaching-pragmatics
US Culture Quiz

• Name these people
References


Contact information.

• Gordon Tapper
• Coordinator and Senior Lecturer
• Academic Spoken English
• Yon 313
• [http://ase.ufl.edu](http://ase.ufl.edu)
• 352 392-3286