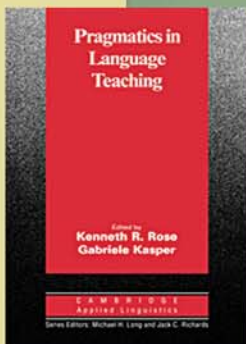
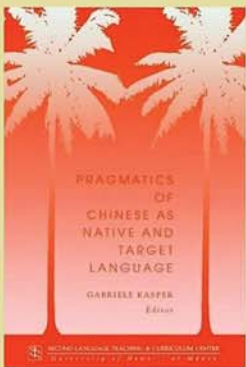


# First Applied Linguistics Lecture of 2007-2008

**Professor Gabrielle Kasper**  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Friday, October 26, 2007  
11:00 - 12:30  
Phelps Hall 1172



## Staying On Task in Oral Proficiency Interviews

In tests of spoken L2 ability conducted in an interview format, interviewers routinely set tasks for candidates, such as introducing themselves, providing narratives of daily routines, past events, and future plans, reporting and commenting on current affairs, and describing spaces, objects, or persons. As interviewers act as co-participants while the task is in progress, they are able to monitor candidates' uptake of the task instructions on a moment-by-moment basis and redirect candidates' actions if they appear "off-task". In a corpus of over 100 OPIs, we see with some regularity that interviewers treat candidates' displayed understandings of the task instruction as problematic and engage in some corrective action. The study examines from a conversation-analytic perspective how misalignments of interviewer task instructions and candidates' handling of the task are interactionally constructed and how "off-task" conduct is addressed in subsequent talk.