Seminar to aid students and employees who speak English as foreign language

A course termed “Teaching English as a Foreign Language” is now being instituted under the auspices of the Experimental College. Originally proposed by Miss Gail Carlson, secretary to the X-Col, the course is designed to improve the English speaking ability of Tufts employees who speak English as a foreign language. There are about 10 employees who don’t speak English at all.

The format of the language course will consist of classes that meet for five days a week 1 hour per day, six weeks during the current semester. Specialized areas of vocabulary will be stressed, rather than attempting to cover the entire English language.

The project proposal notes that “Areas that could be covered are basic conversation, grammar, terms related to specific aspects of a job situation such as the English necessary to receive a driver’s license... or specialized English in academic areas such as science.”

Classes will be composed of small groups of three to five individuals who have similar levels of English comprehension working with one or two teachers. Those acting as teachers will be students and professors.

A coordinator will be necessary for the program. Such an individual would have had training in teaching a foreign language and would advise the instructors and evaluate the structure and effectiveness of the program. Those establishing the program hope to find people in the areas of English to be covered to give any additional help or counselling to the students involved in learning the language.

Miss Carlson stated that “those undergraduates who would be interested in receiving academic credit for this program could apply to the Experimental College for Group Independent Study.”

Additionally, the course might include the husbands and wives of students or employees involved in learning English.

Various individuals in the University are currently working on this program. Mrs. Margaret Booker, Tufts training administrator, working with Grounds and Buildings, has been able to obtain some employees to take the course. The Counselling Center is notifying those students who might be aided by such a course.

The major point stressed by those involved in teaching is that “In learning English, so many of these individuals might become much more upwardly directed in the society.” For many job promotions, for example, it is necessary to be fluent in English.