

Course guide

310786 - 310786 - Technical Communication for Building Construction

Last modified: 29/06/2026

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Building Construction
Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.
Degree: BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (Syllabus 2019).
(Optional subject).
Academic year: 2026 **ECTS Credits:** 3.0 **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Clàudia Barahona Fuentes
Others: Athenea Botey Riaza
Clàudia Barahona Fuentes

PRIOR SKILLS

A proficiency level around the B.2. (upper intermediate) is recommended.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures combine the lecturer's expository explanation with an active participation of all students in class, by means of pairwork, groupwork (maximum 4 members) and class discussion and debates. Student participation is key since there are videos, listening, and activities (like writing and speaking) to do exclusively in class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The goals of the course focus on the necessary communication for future professionals in technical architecture and building construction. The main objective of this course is to familiarise students with the communicative skills necessary for technical professionals, providing knowledge, understanding and aptitude to the use of English both in writing and orally. The course aims to help students present, both in writing and orally, topics and/or technical architecture projects in an efficient and appropriate way. Technical communication is envisaged in a holistic way so that, apart from practising and improving how to communicate to both expert and non-expert audiences on an international level, the course also tackles ethical and intercultural aspects involved in an increasingly international and global labour market.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours medium group	15,0	20.00
Hours large group	15,0	20.00
Self study	45,0	60.00

Total learning time: 75 h



CONTENTS

1. WHAT IS TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Description:

The role of communication among other social skills in technical architecture and building construction. The cost of poor communication for a technical architect.

Full-or-part-time: 10h

Theory classes: 4h

Self study : 6h

2. FEATURING THE TECHNICAL AND ACADEMIC REGISTER

Description:

Characteristics: style, tone & register

Developing paragraphs and structuring texts

Coherence

Technical writing tasks

Full-or-part-time: 20h

Theory classes: 4h

Practical classes: 4h

Self study : 12h

3. TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS

Description:

3.1 PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION OF THE EXECUTION OF A PROJECT: description of the execution of the work of a technical building project, including technical specifications, description of the process, report writing, quotations, quality control, etc.

3.2 COMMUNICATING TO SELL: Persuasive and informative oral presentations (signposting expressions, expressions used in presentations, to capture attention, to propose ideas, elevator pitch, etc.). Present the materialization, quality, safety and management of the work of a project for a specific audience to guarantee its correct execution.

3.3 DISCUSSING AND NEGOTIATING Meetings. Intercultural communication in international settings: Avoiding misunderstandings and dealing with cultural differences.

Full-or-part-time: 45h

Theory classes: 7h

Practical classes: 11h

Self study : 27h

GRADING SYSTEM

Given that this is a communication course, use of ChatGPT and other AI tools that is not part of an activity created by the teacher and use of ChatGPT that is not referenced and cited as a source will be automatically considered plagiarism and cheating and be given a 0 mark.

25% - Midterm exam

25% - Final exam

10% - Class participation (Homework + Attendance + Classwork)

15% - Written report

25% - Oral presentation

EXAMINATION RULES.

If any of the classroom tasks or continuous assessment assignments is not completed, the task will not be graded. A student will receive the final mark of "Absent" if he/she does not complete at least a 75% of the course assessment activities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Bombardó Solés, Carmen; Barahona Fuentes, Clàudia; Aguilar, Marta. Technical writing [Recurs electrònic] : a guide for effective communication . Barcelona : Edicions UPC, 2007. ISBN 9788483019276.
- Riordan, Daniel G. Technical report writing today . 9th ed. Boston [etc.] : Houghton Mifflin, cop. 2005. ISBN 0618433899.
- Lannon, John M; Lannon, John M.. Technical communication . 8th ed. New York : Longman, cop. 2000. ISBN 0321023951.
- Last, Suzan; Neveu, Candice; Smith, Monika; Gaudet, Loren. Technical Writing Essentials . Victoria, British Columbia : University of Victoria, 2019. ISBN 9781550586657.