Course guide
340283 - PRTL-O8P36 - Language Practice

Last modified: 03/04/2024

Unit in charge:	Vilanova i la Geltrú School of Engineering
Teaching unit:	756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.

Degree:	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Optional subject).
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Optional subject).
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS AND AUTOMATIC CONTROL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Optional subject).
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Optional subject).
	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INFORMATICS ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2018). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2024   **ECTS Credits:** 3.0   **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:	Elisabet Arnó Macià
Others:	Rachel Mary Playfair

PRIOR SKILLS

Students should have sufficient skills to be able to communicate in English mainly in speech. This course is addressed to those students interested in improving their proficiency in English (and other languages) in academic settings as well as in internationalisation and intercultural communication. It is strongly recommended to those students wishing to participate in study/work abroad programmes.

REQUIREMENTS

A basic level of English that allows students to participate in conversations and classes in English, with the ability to read texts on academic, cultural, and professional matters.

The course requires students to act as "study buddies" of international students and to participate in weekly language exchanges with their international partners. Active participation in classroom activities is also mandatory. In order to be able to allocate international partners to students in this course ("study buddies"), students will be required to "pre-enrol" before the course starts.

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Transversal:
04 COE N3. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION - Level 3. Communicating clearly and efficiently in oral and written presentations. Adapting to audiences and communication aims by using suitable strategies and means.
07 AAT. SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING. Detecting gaps in one's knowledge and overcoming them through critical self-appraisal. Choosing the best path for broadening one's knowledge.
03 TLG. THIRD LANGUAGE. Learning a third language, preferably English, to a degree of oral and written fluency that fits in with the future needs of the graduates of each course.
04 COE. EFFICIENT ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION. Communicating verbally and in writing about learning outcomes, thought-building and decision-making. Taking part in debates about issues related to the own field of specialization.
06 URI. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. Managing the acquisition, structure, analysis and display of information from the own field of specialization. Taking a critical stance with regard to the results obtained.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course is essentially practical in nature and thus requires active participation on the part of students. Basically, students are required to do the following:
-Attend and actively participate in classroom sessions.
-Participate in weekly language exchanges with their international partners and fill in the "language exchange report" with the details of each exchange (this year, due to the current health situation, students are encouraged to have their exchanges mainly online).
-Do the activities and assignments announced by the lecturer.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

This course aims at developing students' fluency in English so that they are able to communicate orally in international academic (and professional) settings. Other objectives include raising students' intercultural awareness and appreciation, developing their curiosity and motivation towards other languages and cultures, especially towards studying/working abroad, as well as reflecting on the role of English as a lingua franca in the technical field. Students will become familiar with (and will be expected to apply) tools that will enable them to improve and demonstrate their language skills, such as the European Language Portfolio and the Europass curriculum vitae.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	30,0	40.00
Self study	45,0	60.00

Total learning time: 75 h

CONTENTS

1. Participating in mobility programmes. Studying abroad

Description:
Students will reflect on what is involved in student mobility programmes. They will look at internationalization from the perspective of student experience.

Full-or-part-time: 5h
Practical classes: 5h

2. Autonomous language learning. Communicating in English at university.

Description:
Practice with resources for autonomous language learning. Reflection on what makes good language learning. How to improve one's own language learning. Identifying strengths and weaknesses, and developing a plan for language improvement. Introduction to the "European Language Portfolio" as a tool to improve and display one's own language and communication skills. Practice in oral communication in English at university, talking about studies and campus life.

Full-or-part-time: 6h
Practical classes: 6h

3. Intercultural communication

Description:
Students will explore aspects of their own culture and other cultures, mainly through interviews with their international partners. In class, we will discuss different questions related to interculturality.

Full-or-part-time: 8h
Practical classes: 1h
Laboratory classes: 2h
Guided activities: 2h
Self study : 3h

4. English as an international language

Description:
Reflecting on English as an International Language (EIL). English as the language of science and technology. Native/Non-native speakers and EIL competence. World Englishes.

Full-or-part-time: 4h
Practical classes: 2h
Guided activities: 1h
Self study : 1h

5. Working in international contexts. Engineering in the 21st century.

Description:
Reflecting on international employability: analysis of international contexts, one's own skills, career paths, curriculum vitae and job interview. Definition of one's own professional profile. Competences and characteristics of engineers in an international scenario, current engineering curricula.

Full-or-part-time: 10h
Theory classes: 1h
Practical classes: 4h
Laboratory classes: 1h
Guided activities: 2h
Self study : 2h

GRADING SYSTEM

The course is mainly based on continuous assessment so students must complete all the required activities and attend classes regularly in order to qualify for a course mark. Assessment is based on the following components, all of which are compulsory (otherwise the course mark will be "absent"):
-Language exchange report (according to the template provided by the lecturer): 15%
-Classroom participation: 25 %
-Written and spoken assignments (which may include audio or video deliverables of students' oral production): 30%
-Written test based on course contents: 20%
-Participation in international activities (intercultural communication workshop or teambuilding with foreign students) and attendance at one of the EPS project presentations (+ summary writing): 10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- ABC's of cultural understanding and communication : national and international adaptations [on line]. Greenwich, Conn: Information Age Pub., 2006 [Consultation: 18/02/2022]. Available on: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/upcatalunya-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=3315362. ISBN 9781593114633.

- Feak, Christine B. Academic interactions : communicating on campus. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015. ISBN 9780472033324.

- Common European framework of reference for languages : learning, teaching, assessment. Cambridge (UK)[etc.]: Cambridge University Press, 2001. ISBN 0521005310.

- Sheppard, S. [et al.]. Educating engineers : designing for the future of the field. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009. ISBN 9780787977436.

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- Argent, Sue; Alexander, Olwyn. Access EAP frameworks : Course book. Reading: Garnet, 2013. ISBN 9781859645581.

- Byram, Michael. From foreign language education to education for intercultural citizenship : essays and reflections [on line]. Buffalo: Multilingual Matters Ltd, 2008 [Consultation: 13/02/2024]. Available on: https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/lib/upcatalunya-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=370269. ISBN 9781847690784.

RESOURCES

Audiovisual material:
- Nom recurs. Resource