240651 - Oral Communication in Academic and Professional English

Coordinating unit: 240 - ETSEIB - Barcelona School of Industrial Engineering
Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques

Academic year: 2018
Degree: BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MATERIALS ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)

ECTS credits: 4,5
Teaching languages: English

Teaching staff

Coordinator: Marta Aguilar Pérez

Others: Spring semester academic year 2016-17: Marta Aguilar Pérez
        Aguilar Perez, Marta

Prior skills

In order to carry out academic and professional activities in English, students are recommended to at least possess level B.2.2 from the Common European Reference Framework for Languages, or above.

Teaching methodology

The course contents will be covered first through teacher's explanation and second (and most importantly) through student participation. Student participation is absolutely essential to develop the activities (listening and speaking skills). Course contents are developed through task-based tasks and activities will be based on problem-solving and practical exercises with sample and model analysis.

Learning objectives of the subject

Understand and apply the fundamentals of academic and professional communication within the engineering field. Understand and comprehend the importance of pronunciation in academic and professional communication in English and identify basic segmental and suprasegmental aspects of the English phonetics in order to improve pronunciation. Develop active listening skills to improve oral comprehension. Practise and improve spoken fluency in English and use the correct and appropriate language in different communicative situations. Exchange technical information orally and effectively communicate in English (describing, comparing, recommending). Plan, deliver and assess an oral presentation, using the correct and appropriate language and style. Effectively participating in a job interview.
### Study load

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total learning time: 112h 30m</th>
<th>Hours large group: 0h 0.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours medium group: 30h 26.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours small group: 15h 13.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guided activities: 0h 0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self study: 67h 30m 60.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Content

| Characteristics of academic and professional communication with the engineering field | Learning time: 2h  
Practical classes: 1h  
Self study : 1h |
|---|---|
| **Description:**  
Problem-solving and genre concept. Oral spoken and professional genres. Communicative functions and strategies.  
**Related activities:**  
Understand the essentials of active communication. |
| Pronunciation | Learning time: 8h  
Practical classes: 8h |
| **Description:**  
Identify fundamental aspects of English pronunciation and compare them with Spanish and Catalan pronunciation.  
**Related activities:**  
Pronunciation to achieve an intelligible message. English phonetics: basic aspects of the English sound system, stress and intonation. The dictionary to improve pronunciation. |
| Strategies for listening comprehension and speaking skills in English in engineering | Learning time: 4h  
Practical classes: 4h |
| **Description:**  
Techniques to develop active listening. Listening to lectures and speeches: signposting and markers. Note-taking.  
**Related activities:**  
Identify specific information and understand the gist of the message. Identify signposting, markers and key words. Note-taking. |
| Interacting in oral communicative activities efficiently. | Learning time: 10h  
Practical classes: 10h |
| **Description:**  
Identify levels of formality and adapt language to different levels of formality. Use language functions in English to hold a conversation over the telephone, provide technical information, give instructions or participate in a debate.  
**Related activities:**  
Telephoning, delivering technical explanation, giving instructions and participating in debates and discussions. |
Planning and delivering an oral presentation in English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning time: 4h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical classes: 4h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**
Apply problem-solving process: plan, execute and assess. Design the appropriate strategy (inform/ persuade). Gather information, design visual aids, use appropriate language, structure and deliver the presentation. Evaluate its effectiveness.

**Related activities:**
Plan the presentation on a topic related to engineering and deliver it in front of the classmates.

Participating in a job interview in English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning time: 5h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical classes: 5h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**
Participate in a job interview in English. Anticipate questions and prepare answers according to the protocol, using the appropriate language and level of formality.

**Related activities:**
Write a CV in English for a job application and participate in a job interview.

Qualification system

Assessment is based on work and tasks carried out in class, participation and short written tests, which will account for the following percentages:
- final exam: 40%
- oral presentations: 30%
- activities and participation in class: 30%

Bibliography

**Basic:**