

340283 - PRTL-O8P36 - Language Practice

Coordinating unit:	340 - EPSEVG - Vilanova i la Geltrú School of Engineering
Teaching unit:	736 - PE - Department of Engineering Design
Academic year:	2018
Degree:	BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Teaching unit Optional) BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Teaching unit Optional) BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS AND AUTOMATIC CONTROL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Teaching unit Optional) BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2009). (Teaching unit Optional) BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INFORMATICS ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional) BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)
ECTS credits:	3
Teaching languages:	English

Teaching staff

Coordinator:	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.

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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.
- 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

Total learning time: 75h	Hours large group:	30h	40.00%
	Guided activities:	0h	0.00%
	Self study:	45h	60.00%

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Content

<p>1. Participating in mobility programmes. Studying abroad</p>	<p>Learning time: 5h Practical classes: 5h</p>
<p>Description: Students will reflect on what is involved in student mobility programmes. They will look at internationalization from the perspective of student experience.</p>	
<p>2. Autonomous language learning. Communicating in English at university.</p>	<p>Learning time: 6h Practical classes: 6h</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>3. Intercultural communication</p>	<p>Learning time: 8h Practical classes: 1h Laboratory classes: 2h Guided activities: 2h Self study : 3h</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>4. English as an international language</p>	<p>Learning time: 4h Practical classes: 2h Guided activities: 1h Self study : 1h</p>
<p>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.</p>	

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<p>5. Working in international contexts. Engineering in the 21st century.</p>	<p>Learning time: 10h Theory classes: 1h Practical classes: 4h Laboratory classes: 1h Guided activities: 2h Self study : 2h</p>
<p>Description: Reflecting on international employability: analysis of international contexts, one's own skills, career paths, curriculum vitae. Competences and characteristics of engineers in an international scenario, current engineering curricula.</p>	

Qualification system

The course is mainly based on continuous assessment so students are required to 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:

- Language exchange report (according to the template provided by the lecturer): 20%
- Classroom participation: 20 %
- Assignments: 15%
- Portfolio: 15%
- Written test based on course contents: 20%*
- Participation in international activities (to be announced by the lecturer during the course) and attendance at one of the EPS project presentations (+ summary writing): 10%

*RETAKE: Students will have the opportunity to retake the written test.

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Bibliography

Basic:

ABC's of cultural understanding and communication : national and international adaptations. Greenwich, Conn: Information Age Pub., 2006. 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.

Barahona Fuentes, Clàudia ; Arnó Macià, Elisabet. English for academic purposes : learning english through the web [on line]. Barcelona: Edicions UPC, 2001 [Consultation: 07/05/2015]. Available on: <<http://hdl.handle.net/2099.3/36428>>. ISBN 8483014793.

Mauranen, Anna. Exploring ELF : academic English shaped by non-native speakers. Cambridge [England] ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. ISBN 9780521177528.

Roberts, Celia [et al.]. Language learners as ethnographers. Clevedon [etc.]: Multilingual Matters, 2001. ISBN 1853595020.

Kirkpatrick, Andy. World Englishes : implications for international communications and English language teaching. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN 9780521616874.

Argent, Sue; Alexander, Olwyn. Access EAP foundations : Course book. Reading: Garnet, 2010. ISBN 9781859645246.

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. Buffalo: Multilingual Matters Ltd, 2008. ISBN 9781847690784.

Others resources:

Audiovisual material

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Resource