Course guides
230637 - CTC - Critical Thinking and Creativity

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Telecommunications Engineering
Teaching unit: 739 - TSC - Department of Signal Theory and Communications.
Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2013). (Optional subject).
MASTER'S DEGREE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2013). (Optional subject).
MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (Syllabus 2019). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2021  ECTS Credits: 5.0  Languages: English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Elias Fusté, Antoni

Others:

PRIOR SKILLS

English: upper intermediate, advanced, or proficiency (equivalent to B2, C1, C2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite studies: degree (Bachelor's) in science or engineering.
Enrollment in this course will be limited to 25 students. Priority will be given to students enrolled in the Signal Theory and Communications Dept. postgraduate program (MERIT).

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lecture assisted by "power point" slides. 40% of class time is devoted to performing exercises.
The slides will be distributed to all attendees.
Also, readings and statements of appropriate exercises will be distributed.
Analysis and discussion of current issues, with application of methods and tools for an organized approach to problem solving.
Viewing and discussion of videos from many disciplines and a wide range of sources.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The aim of this course is to help students understand and practice the techniques and tools that enable them to enhance and develop their creativity as well as the appreciation of creativity in other people. In this course, students will learn the techniques of problem solving in engineering and the knowledge and use of creative techniques for obtaining new or alternative solutions, to teamwork, to motivation, for improving performance of alternative solutions, as well as the concept of innovation in all areas of their future professional work. Following a methodology based on logic, scientific method, and statistical decision theory, the student will focus problems, to appreciate the importance of the environment and interaction with the systems, and the influence of their knowledge and perception in search for information. When students have successfully completed this course will be able to troubleshoot, optimize and design products and services, dissect arguments, distinguish between good and bad reasoning, fallacies discover and find and target the key elements of a discussion. There will also be encouraged critical thinking, enabling them to articulate and defend their own views and recognize and identify possible defects in their beliefs and reasoning.
STUDY LOAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours large group</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>31.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self study</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>68.80</td>
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</tbody>
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**Total learning time:** 125 h

CONTENTS

1. **Introduction. Some key concepts. Taxonomies.**

**Description:**
- Ideas
- Creativity
- Engineering problem solving
- Effectiveness vs. Efficiency
- Identity Environment-System
- Innovation
- Types of Innovations
- The killer applications
- Reflexions about Innovation
- Inventions
- Examples and Creativity cases
- Creativity performance
- Features of geniuses

**Full-or-part-time:** 9h
Theory classes: 9h

3. **Critical Thinking**

**Description:**
- Data, information and knowledge
- Critical Thinking
- Famous engineers performances
- Development of knowledge
- Research and obtain information
- Perception
- Thinking and reasoning
- Conscious and subconscious Mind.
- Role of the Mind in Learning
- The Heuristics
- Reasoning
- Brain and Mind, how the conscious and the subconscious act

**Full-or-part-time:** 15h
Theory classes: 15h
### 3. Problem Solving and Engineering Design

**Description:**
- Finding creative solutions
  - Strategy to promote creativity.
  - Convergent and Divergent Problems
  - Procedures for obtaining solutions.
  - Team Leadership
  - Leadership and Executive Intelligence.

**Full-or-part-time:** 6h  
Theory classes: 6h

### 4. Creative Techniques

**Description:**
- Pure Creative techniques.
- Logical thinking
- Lateral Thinking
- Reversal Techniques
- Analogies Method
- Forced Relationship Techniques
- Discretization, partition or division Techniques
- Strata
- Da Vinci Technique
- Automated Writing Technique
- Pseudo Dream Technique

Creative Systematized Procedures
- Tree of Ideas or Mind Maps
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)
- "Six Hats" Method
- Morphological Matrix Method.
- Key Questions Technique
- Brainstorming
- Design Thinking
- CPS (creative problem solving)
- TRIZ (Theory of Inventive Problem Solving) method
- Delphi Method

**Full-or-part-time:** 12h  
Theory classes: 12h

### 5. Summary and Conclusions

**Description:**
- Summary of all main subject concepts.
- Critical review of the subject and teacher.
- Proposed improvements.

**Full-or-part-time:** 3h  
Theory classes: 3h
**GRADING SYSTEM**

Ongoing evaluation of weekly assignments exercises and class contributions to the discussions proposed: 100%

**EXAMINATION RULES.**

Examinations consist to solve a creative problem by a students team

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Basic:**

**Complementary:**