

General Information

Course name	Language Skills - Speaking	ECTS Credits	3
		Semester	summer

Aims

This course focuses on the development of advanced speaking skills. The primary goal of the course is to prepare students for the successful defense of their bachelor's and master's theses. The course is designed to help students practice prepared formal speeches; spontaneously converse in a group and use academic English; learn the principles of intercultural communication; improve academic grammar together with pronunciation in spoken language; and develop vocabulary corresponding to the needs of academic debates. The course is aimed at developing and improving language skills at a higher level and increasing the language skills of students with a special focus on the use of academic language. The course introduces various academic topics, acquaints students with academic vocabulary and provides systematic practice of phrases and collocations. By completing the course, students will be able to actively lead a professional debate in English, give a speech to an academic audience and professionally and factually argue in a scientific and academic context.

Contents

1. Facts or opinions?
2. From the general to the specific
3. Logic of speech
4. The language of research
5. Presentation problems
6. Making speech stronger
7. Why does style matter?
8. 'Victory loves preparation'
9. Finalizing and fine-tuning
10. One extra lesson

Evaluation

Student evaluation is based on three criteria: SPEECH DELIVERY 80%; CONTINUOUS PREPARATION 10%, and ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION 10%. To receive credits for this course, students must deliver impromptu, extemporaneous, manuscript, and memorized speeches of different length; continuously and timely submit their reports and attend each class according to the schedule. Attendance is followed during the online sessions too. Ordinarily, student coursework is evaluated by letter grades, which are assigned a value based on a 100-point scale gained from speeches plus points for continuous preparation and active participation. The final mark is assigned according to the following scale: A 100-93 B 92-86 C 85-78 D 77-72 E 71-65 FX 64-0
SPEECH DELIVERY constitutes 80% of the final mark. During the course, students are required to prepare speeches of different genre. Speeches are marked according to the following scheme: 0/1/2 points for correct presentation of facts and research results; 0/1/2

points for the range and quality of academic vocabulary; 0/1/2 points for accuracy and correct use of grammar; 0/1/2 points for pronunciation and the correct voice and tone; CONTINUOUS PREPARATION constitutes 10% of the final mark (maximum 10 points): Students are expected to prepare speeches for each class by reading and processing the study materials and the required literature. Formal requirements for the home assignments: Minimum 650 but maximum 1300 words typed in Microsoft Word editor: letter type Times New Roman; letter size 12, spacing 1.5, 34 lines with 2865 characters per page with spaces. The header must contain the student's name and surname, study group, number of the given week according to the syllabus of the course and the title of the topic for the week. The reports must be submitted in Printable Document Format (PDF). Content requirements for the assignment: Students must present the content of the reading assignment synthesized in a clear and structured way: highlighting key information and data as well as presenting logical connections between them. The submitted speech must represent the student's thorough understanding of the content and the problem area discussed in the reading assignment. WARNING: Speeches must be original work of the author! Any violation of copyright or breach of anti-plagiarism rules and regulations of the university will inevitably lead to disciplinary procedures! Repeated and systematic plagiarism will lead to the loss of credits assigned for completion the course!

ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION constitute 10% (maximum-10 points) of the final mark: All students must attend all classes regardless they are organized face-to-face or online. Students must join the class sessions on time. Should anyone miss the first ten minutes of a class, will be marked as absent from the class. Points for active participation and attendance are assigned only when the student actively contributes to the learning process during the sessions with joining discussions!

Bibliography

Obligatory literature: Rozenfeld, J. & Tomaščíková S., Developing Academic English in Speaking and Writing, Šafárik Press UPJŠ, 2021. ISBN-9788081529603. Recommended literature: Atchison Jarrod, The Art of Debate, 2017, The Teaching Company, Chantilly, Virginia Pixton, Debra Westall, Salom, Luz Gil: Academic and Professional Speaking, A manual for Effective Oral Communication in English, Editorial Universidad Politécnica De Valencia, ISBN: 84-9705-644-2 Odporúčaná literatúra: <https://www.britannica.com/> <https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html> <https://www.investopedia.com/> <https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/>