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| **General Information** |
| **Course name** | Language Skills - Conversation | **ECTS Credits** | **3** |
| **Semester** | **summer** |
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| **Aims** |
| This course is an upper intermediate practicum for developing advanced speaking skills. The primary objective of the course is to prepare students for a successful BA and MA thesis defense. The course is designed to help students practice delivering prepared formal speeches to an audience; converse spontaneously in a group setting using academic English; learn how to converse across cultures both practically and philosophically; and review and learn grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary relevant to the needs of an academic English speaker. The course is designed to develop and improve essential language skills on upper-intermediate level and increase students ́ language competence with a special focus on how to use academic language. The course introduces various academic topics and presents language functions, familiarizes students with new vocabulary, and provides systematic practice of idioms and collocations.  |
| **Contents** |
| 1. INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC CONVERSATION, Language function: linking words 2. LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION, Language functions: quoting people, referring, certainty and uncertainty 3. MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA, Language functions: aim and purpose, explaining 4. FINE ARTS AND POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT, Language functions: comparing and contrasting, advantages and disadvantages 5. BUSINESS, BUYING AND SELLING, Language functions: listing and ordering, approximate, exact, decreasing and increasing, describing graphs 6. HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEMS, Language functions: explaining, showing and proving 7. GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS, Language functions: giving opinions and reasons, making generalizations 8. RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY, Language functions: agreeing and disagreeing, causes and effects 9. MORALS AND ETHICS, Language functions: giving examples, giving exceptions 10. SCIENCE, Language functions: study and research, subject and topics, related, unrelated 11. CULTURE, Language functions: problems and solutions, concluding |
| **Evaluation** |
| Students are expected to attend each class according to the schedule. Transfers among the groups are possible. In case you miss one class you are required to attend the class with a different group or excuse your absence with a valid doctor’s certificate. In case you miss more than two classes, you will not receive credits for the course. You must be on time for class. Should you miss the first ten minutes of a particular seminar session your presence in the class will not count. Students are expected to make their own copies of the required materials and complete the assigned tasks and exercises. Should you fail to bring your own copy of the required study materials or a completed home assignment for a particular seminar, your presence in class will not count. If you arrange with the tutor in advance not to attend a class session, you will be expected to submit any assignment on the subsequent session. During the term students are expected to prepare lectures and actively participate in debates and discussions on topics listed in syllabus. Each presentation is marked according to the following scheme: 0-5 points for correct presentation of facts, information and research results in a certain topic, 0-5 points for use of academic word list, formal scientific language and language functions 0-5 points for correct use of grammar and use of English 0-5 points for presentation skills, pronunciation, voice, tone and overall impression Students qualify for the final exam in case they collect 160 points during the course. |
| **Bibliography** |
| 1. 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 |