

COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE DETAILS

Title (of the course): **PRÁCTICAS DE CONVERSACIÓN**

Code: 100546

Degree/Master: **GRADO DE ESTUDIOS INGLESES**

Year: 4

Field: PRÁCTICAS DE CONVERSACIÓN

Character: OPTATIVA

Duration: FIRST TERM

ECTS Credits: 6.0

Classroom hours: 60

Face-to-face classroom percentage: 40.0%

Study hours: 90

Online platform:

LECTURER INFORMATION

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PREREQUISITES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prerequisites established in the study plan

To have passed Instrumental English VI (English Studies Degree).

Recommendations

Full-time attendance is essential for practicing and developing the oral communication skills of the English language.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- CB1 Ability for analysis and synthesis.
- CB2 Ability for organization and scheduling of work.
- CB3 Knowledge of the foreign language (English).
- CB4 Knowledge of ICT for study and research.
- CB5 Students must possess the capacity to gather and interpret relevant information (usually in their field of study) in order to give opinions which include a reflection about relevant topics which are social, scientific or ethic in nature.
- CB6 Students must transmit information, ideas, problems and answers to both specialised and not specialised publics.
- CB7 Decision making.
- CB8 Students must know how to apply their knowledge to their job or vocation in a professional manner and they must possess the competencies which are usually demonstrated by means of the elaboration and defense of arguments and the solution of problems in their field of study.
- CB9 Ability for teamwork.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

- CB10 Ability to work in a team with interdisciplinary character.
- CB11 Ability to work in an international context.
- CB12 The acknowledgement of diversity and interculturality.
- CB13 Ability to self-assessment.
- CB14 Adaptation to new situations.
- CB15 Creativity.
- CB16 Knowledge of other cultures and habits.
- CB17 Motivation for quality, professional ambition and entrepreneurship.
- CB18 Students must demonstrate to possess and understand knowledge in a field of study which takes place from the base of the general secondary school, and it is common to find a level that, albeit it relies on advanced text books, also includes some aspects which imply knowledge from the forefront of its field of study.
- CB19 Students must develop those necessary learning abilities to undertake subsequent studies with a high degree of autonomy.
- CU1 To accredit the use and proficiency of a foreign language.
- CU2 To know and improve the user level in the field of ICT.
- CE1 Oral and written communication ability in the English language.
- CE2 Ability to understand speeches in the English language.
- CE3 Ability to understand long and complex texts, discerning distinctions of style and register, as well as specialised articles and long technical instructions.
- CE4 Ability to receive, understand, analyse and transmit scientific production in English language.
- CE5 Ability to express themselves fluently and spontaneously, by using the language flexibly and efficiently with a social and professional purpose.
- CE8 Ability to respect the diversity and interculturality resulting from the exposure to different linguistic and cultural varieties related to English.
- CE9 Ability for cooperation and collaboration in the learning process of the English language as a vehicle of international communication (lingua franca).
- CE13 Command of oral and written academic English as well as the development of techniques of academic work. Ability to argue and express abstract concepts, assumptions and relationships in academic essays.
- CE27 Participation in group learning activities: assignments, studies.
- CE28 Participation in learning forums and transfer of acquired knowledge: news groups, blogs.
- CE46 Development of the communicative competence regarding modern language in daily situations.
- CE47 Ability for speaking, listening, reading and writing in a modern language.
- CE48 Autonomous employment of the different methods and materials for modern language learning.

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this subject is to provide students with oral practice in the English language at an advanced level in order to reach a high proficiency level in the foreign language (C1-C2 proficiency level conforming to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Specific aims include:

- 1) To be able to understand long speeches even when these are vaguely structured, and involve covert meaning relationships.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- 2) To be able to understand TV shows and films, as well as conversations by native speakers of the English language.
- 3) To be able to give descriptions and talk about a given topic in a logically-sequenced, fluent and clear way, using an appropriate register which will depend upon the context.
- 4) To be able to speak English fluently and efficiently for social and specific/professional purposes, conveying the subtle nuances of meaning of a word or expression.
- 5) To be able to express opinions, and to convey them successfully to the hearer in a conversation.
- 6) To take active part in a conversation or debate, using idiomatic expressions and colloquial phrases in English.
- 7) To be able to use communication strategies to overcome difficulties (comprehension-expression interaction).
- 8) To be able to handle communication situations by using the theory and practical knowledge about the English language in general, and the oral comprehension and communication skills of the foreign language in particular, which have been already acquired in previous courses.
- 9) To be able to employ the different communicative functions of the English language in formal/professional and informal contexts.

CONTENT

1. Theory contents

This subject aims to complement the contents and skills acquired in Instrumental English (I-IV), providing students with conversation practice in the English language at an advanced level. Students are expected to reach a C1-C2 proficiency level of English in their ability to understand messages and communicate orally in formal/professional, as well as informal contexts.

A. Communicative functions:

1. About information: asking for and about information, giving information, remembering, reminding, checking, correcting.
2. About attitudes: expressing un/certainty, probability, making predictions, expressing curiosity, wishes, negative/positive feelings, likes & dislikes, preferences, approval, disapproval, comparing, assessing, asking & giving opinion, expressing agreement & disagreement.
3. About actions: Making, accepting & refusing offers; expressing duty & obligation, necessity, intention, ability to do something; asking for, giving, refusing permission & advice; suggesting, requesting, persuading, complaining, threatening, warning; expressing willingness, conditions, and refusal to do something.

B. Social formulae: To start and end conversations, to introduce oneself and others, greetings, wishing well, congratulating, inviting, offering, thanking, apologising, complementing, leave, taking, saying goodbye.

C. Strategies to facilitate and maintain communication: Asking for clarification, checking comprehension, paraphrasing, exemplifying, showing interest, taking up a point, taking time to think, changing the subject, summing up.

D. Oral presentations: Oral presentation stages, features, structure, skills, non-verbal communication and aids.

E. Discussions and debates: Holding a discussion. Debate stages, features, structure, tips and aids

2. Practical contents

Conversation practice, debates and oral presentations focus on the following topics:

1. Mind, Body and Health
2. Development Through Life
3. Non-Verbal Messages
4. Interpersonal relationships

The communicative tasks involve:

1. Oral interaction using the communicative functions and social formulae of the English language, as well as communication strategies, to facilitate and maintain a conversation in a formal/professional and informal context.
2. Academic oral presentations.
3. Discussions and debates.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

4. Listening comprehension skills.

METHODOLOGY

Methodological adaptations for part-time students and students with disabilities and special educational needs

Officially enrolled as part-time students who cannot attend classes regularly will be assessed following almost the same criteria full-time students. Students must follow the contents of the course, as well as contacting the Professor.

Face-to-face activities

Activity	Large group	Medium group	Total
<i>Debates</i>	9	2	11
<i>Group presentation</i>	16	6	22
<i>Listening Activities</i>	6	3	9
<i>Reading Activities</i>	4	2	6
<i>Speaking Activities</i>	10	2	12
Total hours:	45	15	60

Off-site activities

Activity	Total
<i>Activities</i>	6
<i>Exercises</i>	7
<i>Group work</i>	30
<i>Information search</i>	4
<i>Reference search</i>	3
<i>Self-study</i>	40
Total hours	90

WORK MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS

Coursebook
Exercises and activities
Oral presentations

Clarifications

Espeseth, Miriam. Academic Encounters: Human Behavior (Level 4) 2nd ed, Student's Book Listening and Speaking with DVD, Cambridge: CUP, 2012.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EVALUATION

Intended learnig	Debate	Exams	Oral Presentation	Real and/or simulated tasks
CB1	X		X	X
CB10		X		X
CB11		X	X	X
CB12	X	X		X
CB13				X
CB14		X	X	X
CB15	X			X
CB16		X		X
CB17		X	X	X
CB18	X	X		X
CB19	X	X		X
CB2	X			X
CB3		X		X
CB4		X	X	X
CB5			X	X
CB6	X			X
CB7		X		X
CB8		X	X	X
CB9	X		X	X
CE1			X	X
CE13		X		X
CE2		X		X
CE27		X	X	X
CE28	X			X
CE3	X			X
CE4		X	X	X
CE46	X	X		X
CE47	X		X	X

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intended learnig	Debate	Exams	Oral Presentation	Real and/or simulated tasks
CE48	X			X
CE5	X	X		X
CE8		X		X
CE9	X		X	X
CU1			X	X
CU2	X	X		X
Total (100%)	20%	30%	40%	10%
Minimum grade	5	5	5	0

(*)Minimum grade necessary to pass the course

Method of assessment of attendance:

It is compulsory to attend at least 80% of the lectures.

General clarifications on instruments for evaluation:

For students attending regularly, assessment will be as follows:

- Oral Presentations in class: 40%
- Debate: 20%
- Oral Exam: 30%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

Clarifications on the methodology for part-time students and students with disabilities and special educational needs:

Students attending regularly and part-time students will be assessed following almost the same criteria

- Oral Presentations in class: 50%
- Debate: 20%
- Oral Exam: 30%

Qualifying criteria for obtaining honors:

Honors will be awarded to students with the highest grades, being all their different scores above 9.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Basic Bibliography

1. Basic Bibliography:

- Anderson, Kenneth et al. Study Speaking: a course in spoken English for academic purposes, Cambridge: CUP, 2004.
- Blundell, Jon, Jonathan Higgins & Nigel Middlemiss. Function in English, Oxford: OUP, 1982.



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INFORMACIÓN SOBRE TITULACIONES
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Espeseth, Miriam. Academic Encounters: Human Behavior (Level 4) 2nd ed, Student's Book Listening and Speaking with DVD, Cambridge: CUP, 2012.
- Wallace, Michael. Study Skills in English, 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP, 2004.

2. Further reading

- Tillitt, Bruce & Mary Newton Brudder. Speaking Naturally, Cambridge: CUP, 1985.
- Porter Ladouse, Gillian. Speaking Personally, Cambridge: CUP, 1983.

Online Dictionaries:

- Cambridge Compact Dictionary (Spanish-English):<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/spanish-english/>
- Cambridge Learner's Dictionary (English):<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english/dynamic>
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary (English): <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

COORDINATION CRITERIA

Common evaluation criteria

Tasks deadlines

Tasks performance

SCHEDULE

Period	Debates	Group presentation	Listening Activities	Reading Activities	Speaking Activities
1# Week	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.0	5.0
2# Week	0.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
3# Week	0.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	3.0
4# Week	3.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
5# Week	3.0	4.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
6# Week	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
7# Week	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
8# Week	0.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Total hours:	11.0	22.0	9.0	6.0	12.0

The methodological strategies and the evaluation system contemplated in this Course Description will be adapted according to the needs presented by students with disabilities and special educational needs in the cases that are required.