uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Writing and Communication Skills

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024) Review date: 19-12-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: Philosophy, Language, Literature Theory Department

Coordinating teacher: SUAREZ HERNANDEZ, ARIANA

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits: 3.0

Year: 1 Semester: 2

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

To pass the subject, the student must be proficient in spoken and written English. Without a correct competence in the language, it will not be possible to pass the subject.

SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

RA6: Transversal Skills: To have the necessary skills for the practice of biomedical engineering in today's society.

CB1: Students have demonstrated possession and understanding of knowledge in an area of study that builds on the foundation of general secondary education, and is usually at a level that, while relying on advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects that involve knowledge from the cutting edge of their field of study.

CB2: Students are able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the competences usually demonstrated through the development and defence of arguments and problem solving within their field of study.

CG4: Ability to solve problems with initiative, decision-making, creativity, and to communicate and transmit knowledge, skills and abilities, understanding the ethical, social and professional responsibility of the biomedical engineer's activity. Capacity for leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

CG7: Drafting, representing and interpreting scientific-technical documentation.

ECRT7: To strengthen the student's communication skills, both oral and written. In addition, the aim is for students to appreciate the importance of communication skills in the performance of any professional activity.

ECRT8: Acquire knowledge of oral and written communication techniques more specific to the professional environment in which they will work as biomedical engineering graduates (communication of technical results, report writing, etc.).

CT1: Ability to communicate knowledge orally and in writing to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

CT2: Ability to establish good interpersonal communication and to work in multidisciplinary and international teams.

CT3: Ability to organise and plan their work, making the right decisions based on the information available, gathering and interpreting relevant data in order to make judgements within their area of study.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course the student should be able to:

- Distinguish the characteristics of written and spoken language.
- Choose a topic and organize adequately the ideas.
- Write an academic-scientific text correctly composing a logically ordered discourse and using language that is precise and appropriate to the context.
- Use correct intonation and take advantage of the expressive possibilities that non-verbal communication affords.
- Present a topic, project or report for a specific audience.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

The program is divided into two main parts. The first part deals with the matters related to written expression and the second one with the specific aspects of spoken expression. The work method will include providing students with a theoretical basis, which is essential, but will focus primarily on applying this knowledge to practical exercises. Therefore, regular practice will be encouraged, and the teacher will make an effective monitoring.

WRITING SKILLS

- -Planning, designing and organizing the content.
- -Correct use of the language: precision, synthesis and correctness.
- -Effective structure of an academic-scientific text: introduction, body and conclusion.
- -Correct argumentative structure and coherence in the discourse.
- -Contact with creative writing.

SPEAKING SKILLS

- -Elements of rhetoric and oratory for an effective presentation.
- -Non-verbal communication and body language.
- -Formal aspects of presentations. Effective use of technology for oral presentations.
- -Dialogue and interviews.
- -Oral expression in specific contexts: group presentations, participation in debates.
- -Organization of the oral presentation and solving unforeseen situations.
- Communication through a screen: tecnlogies and effectiveness in communication.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The subject will be divided into two parts: a master one, more focused on the presentation and explanation of the content, and a practical one, more focused on the practical application of acquired notions.

Learning activities

- 1. Techniques for generating, prioritizing and organizing ideas.
- 2. Rules for construction of correct text, with an appropriate and precise vocabulary. Drafting an academic-scientific paper.
- 3. Exercises with pronunciation, intonation and other aspects related to oratory and non-verbal communication.
- 4. Individual and group presentations.
- 5. Interviews and improvisation from a given situation.

Skills

- 1. Choose a topic and organize ideas adequately.
- 2. Write logically ordered sentences with an appropriate length. Build vocabulary. Be familiar with standard language.
- 3. Ability to write coherent texts and to divide a text into paragraphs correctly.
- 4. Use correct intonation and take advantage of expressive possibilities to present a theme fluidly.
- 5. Acquire fluency in unplanned situations. Reach a certain degree of ease in public speaking.

Methodology

- 1. Brainstorming. Conceptual Mapping. Outlines.
- 2. Error correction exercises. Dictionary exercises.
- 3. Analysis and commentary of different types of texts
- 4. Pronunciation exercises. Exercises and activities with intonation.
- 5. Mock group or individual presentations, as well as simple role-playing. Constructive criticism from classmates and teacher correction.

Tutorials

The teacher will set a personalized attention schedule.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Writing and Communication Skills is an ongoing assessment subject; therefore, class attendance is essential. In order to pass the subject, students must attend at least 85% of scheduled classes, although attendance alone does not guarantee a passing grade. Ratings are distributed as follows:

- 1. Attendance, participation, delivery of exercises proposed in class: 50%
- 2. Written essay to be turned in (compulsory to pass the subject): 25%
- 3. Oral presentation: 25%

Any plagiarism in the exercises or essays, in addition to the possible administrative penalties, will mean the fail of the course, without any possibility of recovery in the current course. The use of Artificial Intelligence to prepare the work of the subject will also be penalized.

MAKING UP THE SUBJECT

There is only one opportunity per academic year to pass the subject. If the student has not passed the course according to the parameters explained above, the requirements for making up the subject, in the same academic period, are the following:

- 1. The student must have attended a minimum of 50% of the classes. Without this requirement, it won't be possible to make up the subject.
- 2. Completing an assignment based on the additional bibliography and/or an oral presentation, according to the terms determined by the teacher.

In any case, the make-up process will be carried out according to the instructions of the professor of the course, and always in the same semester of the subject.

% end-of-term-examination:

0

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):

100

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