

**Usage and Strategies of Intercultural Communication****2015/2016**

Code: 100213

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)

**Prerequisites**

Students must have at least a C1+ level of English of the Common European Framework for Languages to be able to follow the course.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

This course intends to be an introduction to the field of study of intercultural communication from a linguistic perspective. For this reason, the interactional, discursive and sociolinguistic aspects of the communicative contact among individuals from diverse geographical, cultural and linguistic origins will be emphasised. The themes of study are framed within the current reality of globalisation and the growing mobility of people, ideas and practices in a transnational context, as well as within the significance of the new technologies (especially the Internet) as tools which facilitate/foster intercultural communication. In this context, the role of multilingualism and international lingua francae is emphasised, in particular that of English, as complex communicative realities which are in constant evolution. The course also focuses on the analysis of the implication of language, culture and discourse in the creation of social inequalities. In this vein, linguistic ideologies and social representations are examined as elements of power and intergroup domination.

**Skills****English Studies**

- Demonstrating they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Effectively working individually or in teams in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English and other languages, applying values of a culture of peace, and the characteristic democratic values of a degree in a foreign language that trains the student for intercultural communication.
- Producing clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.

- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Synchronously describing the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Using the acquired knowledge in order to solve problems related to any professional activity in the field of the English language, specially to the teaching.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

## Learning outcomes

1. Accurately drawing up normative texts.
2. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to professional contexts where several languages come into contact.
3. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to the specific teaching of the English language.
4. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to the work in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English.
5. Applying the acquired knowledge and competences to professional and academic activities related to linguistics.
6. Applying the acquired knowledge in order to improve the general knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity.
7. Applying the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
8. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language..
9. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
10. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
11. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
12. Demonstrating a mastering of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
13. Demonstrating a sound knowledge about the topics related to the study of linguistics.
14. Describing the discursive and conversational complexities in contact situations of social and linguistic groups.
15. Developing a labour and research bond in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English that contribute to international collaboration.
16. Drawing up texts in English that are correct and appropriate to a variety of relatively specialised topics in academic and professional contexts.
17. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
18. Identifying and analysing the discursive strategies that help or prevent reaching a comprehension in intercultural contexts.
19. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
20. Issuing appropriate critical assessments based on the comprehension of relevant information about social, scientific or ethical issues related to linguistics.
21. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.

22. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
23. Producing new professional initiatives.
24. Producing strategies that help increase and improve mutual respect in multicultural environments.
25. Solving problems autonomously.
26. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
27. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.
28. Understanding and reflecting on relatively specialised authentic texts in English in various academic and professional fields.
29. Understanding relatively specialised authentic audio material in English about topics in several academic and professional fields.

## Content

1. Genealogy, and historical and disciplinary evolution of intercultural communication.
2. Theoretical approaches to the notion of culture
3. Identity, representation and otherisation
4. The relationship between language and culture
5. Misunderstandings and the achievement of intercomprehension in intercultural contexts
6. Multilingualism, *linguae francae* and international English
7. Intercultural communicative pedagogy and transculturality

## Methodology

The teaching methodology is based on:

-directed activities:30%

-supervised activities: 15%

-autonomous activities: 50%

-evaluation activities: 5%

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Correction and discussion of practical exercises	17	0.68	4, 2, 3, 5, 22, 12, 14, 29, 17, 25
Critical analysis and discussion of assigned readings	10	0.4	6, 2, 3, 5, 27, 26, 13, 22, 12, 14, 20, 28, 29, 11, 24, 18, 19
Presentation of theoretical concepts	23	0.92	3, 22, 12, 29, 17, 11
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Doubt clearing tutorial sessions	15	0.6	2, 3, 5, 13, 22, 14, 17, 11, 24, 18
Individual feedback for the oral presentation	10	0.4	2, 27, 15, 24, 23, 18, 19
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			

Completion of exercises	20	0.8	6, 2, 3, 5, 27, 22, 12, 14, 20, 18, 25
Elaboration of individual and group assignments	15	0.6	8, 9, 5, 1, 13, 22, 12, 14, 20, 17, 11, 18, 21, 16
Personal study	15	0.6	8, 10, 22, 12, 25

## Evaluation

The following criteria must be taken into account:

1. All evaluation tasks are compulsory.
2. If a student submits only ONE evaluation task, not enough evidence will have been gathered for assessment, and s/he will receive the grade "no evaluable" (impossible to assess).
3. If a student submits MORE THAN ONE evaluation task, s/he will be eligible for passing or failing the course.
4. Passing all assessment tasks (with a minimum of 5/10) is a necessary requirement to pass the course.
5. It is only possible to reassess two evaluation tasks OR 40% of the course. Students will be able to obtain a maximum of 6/10 in any reassessment task.
6. Failed tasks will be averaged out with the rest only after reassessment. For this to happen, a student may have failed a maximum of one task and have obtained a mark higher than 4.
7. The students' level of English (C1+ minimum) will be taken into account in the correction of any written assignment and the oral presentation. It will amount to 40% of the mark.
8. Plagiarising one or several parts of an assignment/assessment task will automatically imply failing it.

### Approximate calendar for evaluation tasks

Assignment 1: week 5

Presentation of an academic article: week 8

Final exam: week 12

Assignment 2: week 15

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Active class participation	15%	3.75	0.15	8, 4, 6, 5, 15, 20, 17, 11, 23, 19
Critical reading of an article, summary and elaboration of a group presentation	15%	3.75	0.15	8, 9, 4, 7, 5, 10, 27, 26, 1, 22, 12, 15, 17, 11, 24, 23, 19, 21
Written assignments	30%	7.5	0.3	8, 9, 3, 5, 27, 26, 1, 13, 22, 12, 14, 20, 28, 17, 11, 18, 19, 16, 25
Written exam	40%	10	0.4	8, 9, 6, 2, 3, 27, 1, 13, 12, 14, 20, 29, 17, 11, 24, 18, 25

## Bibliography

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Zhu, H. (2011) *The Language and Intercultural Communication Reader*. London: Routledge.

Zhu, H. (2014) *Exploring Intercultural Communication: Language in Action*. London: Routledge.

More specific bibliography will be provided during the course