

English for Professional Communication

Level 2

Module 8

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Course description

The elective course *English for Professional Communication: Level 2* is designed for students of upper-intermediate and advanced levels of proficiency in English and is based on the skills developed in the General English and Business English courses. It is aimed at boosting students' discussion and public speaking skills. The learning goals of the course align with specific debate practices, such as supporting opinion, discussing an abstract topic, hypothesizing, tailoring language, persuading, advocating a position at length, and using sophisticated verbal strategies. It lasts for 28 academic hours.

By the end of the course students will have gained confidence in

- thinking critically
- providing solid reasoning to support their assertions
- pitching their ideas clearly and with style
- developing their interpersonal and presentational skills

Course requirements, grading, and attendance policies

Attendance

Regular attendance (80% of the sessions), preparedness for classes and active in-class participation are crucial for making progress in this course. Excessive tardiness will also affect students' final grades.

Home assignments

Home assignments, submitted after the deadline, will receive a failing grade. In case a student misses a class, s/he should inform the professor about it in advance and submit the completed assignment (written assignments should be sent by email, oral – presented at the office hours) to the professor before the next class. Assignments, submitted after the deadline without any prior notification, but before the end of the course, will receive 0.5 grade lower. In any case, later submissions are accepted only under extenuating circumstances, and only if the professor is informed about it before the due date.

Grading

The grading breakdown:

Class attendance	20%
Homework (oral and written)	40%
Final test (a 6-minute presentation)	40%

Grade conversion table

Grade	%
5+	> 95%
5	90% - 95%
5-	86% - 89%
4+	80% - 85%
4	76% - 79%
4-	70% - 75%
3+	66% - 69%
3	60% - 65%
3-	56% - 59%
2	< 56%

Make-ups

Make-up of the final test is allowed during the first two weeks of the next module only in the following circumstances:

- if a student could not take the final test for extenuating reasons
- if a student has got a "2" for the final test (in this case the student's make up mark for the final test will not be higher than 3+)

Course contents

The overall course duration is 28 contact academic hours in module 8. Students attend classes once a week, and each session lasts 4 academic hours.

The themes of the course (might vary depending on the group performance)

1. Impact techniques. Using intonation in oral prepared discourse.
2. Formatting the argument: assertion, reasoning, evidence, impact.
3. Constructing critical discourse.
4. Dealing with questions. Choosing the right strategy.

Description of course methodology

The course will emphasize interactive teaching and learning practices that facilitate the development of discussion and public speaking skills. Class activities will embrace discussions in pairs, groups, team and individual presentations. Every class is followed by an oral home assignment which ensures student progress through the course. Students improve their public speaking skills by gaining individual feedback from the professor.

Course materials

Required textbooks and materials

1. M. Hewings, *English Pronunciation in Use (Advanced)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
2. Powell, Mark, *Dynamic Presentations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
3. Powell Mark, *Presenting in English*. Hampshire: Heinle Cengage Learning, 2012.
4. E. Talalakina et al., *Mastering English through Global Debate*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2014.

Additional materials

1. M.Hancock, *English Pronunciation in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
2. www.americanrhetoric.org
3. www.ted.com.

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES are not tolerated.