

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	Medicine		
Field of Knowledge:	Health Science		
Faculty/School:	Health Sciences		
Course:	SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH APPLIED TO MEDICINE		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	4
Year:	2	Code:	2731
Teaching period:	Third semester		
Area:	Medicine and society		
Module:	Social medicine, communication skills and introduction to research		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	100		

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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Equip learners with the knowledge and skills which will enable them to use the English language in their future work environment as true professionals in the field of health science. Train and enable the learner to communicate effectively in English.

Scientific English Applied to Medicine is a course, which is compulsory and which carries 4 ECTS credits, implying

100 hours of dedication on the learner's part, taught in the Third Semester of the Second Year of Health Science Degree studies. This course is embodied within the Area of Medicine and Society within the Module: Social medicine, communication skills and introduction to research.

Scientific English Applied to Medicine forms part of a well-rounded, integral education focused on the learner in all of his or her harmoniously integrated dimensions (intelligence, will, emotional nature, sociability, abilities, skills...). In the area of health science, our aim is that future doctors and health carers become true professionals with a true love and vocation for working in health care, and this involves the encounter with the patient, who is much more than just a person with health concerns, who is a whole person with a fully enclosed reality. Through second language learning, the learner is encouraged to expand his or her own horizons by raising questions about and exploring other cultures, which, besides facilitating communication in an increasingly globalized world, allows the learner to get to know other languages and other cultures making the person more aware of his or her own language and culture, that is, of one's self.

GOAL

Develop communicative competence in English whether applied to communicating with the scientific community, with patients and/or with the rest of health care professionals in hospital environments.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

This course recommends a minimum B2 level of English.

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Making Presentations: Participating in International Conferences

Learners will be provided with useful, necessary techniques on how to prepare and give an effective presentation in English. The learners are prepared to present before an audience, they will learn the language necessary to give presentations at international conferences using the critical thinking framework (selecting and evaluating information, properly quoting sources used, engaging with the audience, etc.).

2. The Human Body

Students learn, consolidate and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to the human body, paying special attention to pronunciation and to communicating with people who are non-specialists, for example, patients and family members. Students become familiar with the main resources that can be used to consult medical vocabulary and the pronunciation of Latinate and Germanic medical terms.

3. Health and Illness: Understanding Medical English

Students learn and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to some of the most common illnesses and general healthcare, paying special attention to pronunciation and to communicating with people who are non-specialists, for example, patients and family members. Students will engage in reading comprehension activities based on medical texts (press and specialised journals). Students will interpret and discuss the content of the texts using critical thinking skills, which is aimed at preparing the students to participate in clinical sessions and case study discussions.

4. Communicating with the Patient (examination, treatment, tools, etc.)

Students learn and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to medical and surgical treatments, procedures and instruments, paying special attention to pronunciation and to communicating with people who are non-specialists, for example, patients and family members. They learn to distinguish between medical jargon and everyday language when describing health issues to patients and taking their medical history. A series of seminars will be dedicated to doctor-patient interviews.

5. Talking About Research Results

This unit will increase fluency in understanding and communicating with numbers and measurements (temperature, dosage, percentages, etc.). The students will learn how to describe research results (tables, graphs, etc.) and how to write effective abstracts in English.

6. Individual and group project work

The students will write an argumentative essay in English on a specific health-related topic and carry out a

multimedia project (video, podcast) popularising a scientific issue agreed on with the teacher.

7. Language Work

Increase overall knowledge of English grammar, in particular, that related to the themes dealt with herein. Learn about common pronunciation problems, the pronunciation of Latin terminology in English, common mistakes in medical English and the formal characteristics of medical English.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

In second-language teaching-learning methodology, the how is as important as the what or even the final result. The way a second language is taught-learned is a learning experience in and of itself, through which the learner's knowledge and skills in the second language are continuously put into question, reflected upon, experienced, experimented with and advanced, thus allowing learning to take place and greater, improved language competence to be acquired.

Therefore the methodology applied in this course is, first and foremost, communicative. Communication being a two-way thing, the teacher-learner relationship and in second-language teaching-learning methodology, the how is as important as the what or even the final result.

The methodology applied in this course is therefore communicative, eclectic and collaborative. 'Communicative' implies active participation and involvement. 'Eclectic' takes into account different teaching-learning styles, allowing the student to develop and activate his/her own learning. 'Collaborative' provides the learner with the opportunity, both individually and in collaboration with others, to acquire more autonomy as well as a greater sense of responsibility for self and others. The teacher is a guide in this learning process.

This communicative, eclectic, collaborative methodology implies,

The course is divided into participative lectures and seminars in smaller groups.

IN CLASS:

- Interactive class lectures
- Seminars
- Student presentations and student-led discussions
- Group and pair activities: role-plays, simulations, interviews, research, project work, online forums, etc.
- Feedback mechanisms
- Midterm and final written and/or oral exams

OUTSIDE OF CLASS:

- Independent study and preparation of class/group/pair work
- Online task completion and participation
- Individual and group tutorials
- Self-assessment

The focus of this subject is on content, knowledge and skills relevant to health and medicine.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
42 hours	58 hours
Participative lectures 30h Seminars 12h	

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

That the students have reached a minimum acceptable level in a foreign language, preferably English.

Specific skills

To be able to understand and critically interpret scientific texts.

To be familiar with aspects of communication with patients, families and their social environment: models of clinical relations, interviews, verbal and non-verbal communication and interferences. To know how to give bad news.

To learn how to give oral and written presentations of scientific papers and/or professional reports in public.

To be able to use scientific English applied to medicine both orally and in writing in an accurate manner.

LEARNING RESULTS

The student communicates with patients in English adjusting his/her discourse to the requirements of the situation.

The student recognises the importance of the English language as an internationally intelligible means of communication which provides access to and understanding of health issues on a European as well as global level.

The student makes adequate use of content vocabulary related to health and medicine.

The student reads, interprets and analyses texts on medical topics in English.

The student defends and critically justifies his/her opinions in discussions and oral presentations.

The student creates and develops a project related to health and medicine which is meaningful and relevant making use of a variety of appropriate resources, including TICS and multimedia.

The student makes use of different discursive styles always taking into account coherency and cohesion.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

PRIMARY CONTINUOUS EVALUATION SYSTEM:

ORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: Dec-Jan. (1st SEM.) - May (2nd SEM.)

BLOCK 1: WRITTEN AND ORAL ASSESSMENT- 60%

- o20% - Oral: Individual/group presentations, debates, discussions, simulations, interviews, etc., done throughout the course. To calculate an average with the written, the student must obtain an overall PASS on the oral.
 - o40% - Written. One final exam. To calculate an average with the oral, the student must obtain an overall PASS on this final written exam.
- Note: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 1, to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 2 and 3.

BLOCK 2: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 30%

- oOral or written task completion and evaluation assigned by the teacher announced at the beginning of the course.
 - oCompletion of regular homework assignments
 - oOnline task completion and participation (forums, blogs, etc.)
 - oAttendance to tutorials when called upon
- Note: All tasks and assignments MUST BE HANDED IN DUE TIME ANNOUNCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE and in proper form.

Note: To calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1 and 3, it is required that the student obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2.

BLOCK 3: ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 10%

- oRegular attendance and active participation.

Note: Students who do not attend class on a regular basis and do not have a formal “dispensa” authorized by the Degree automatically lose this 10%.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: June (1st SEM.) – June (2nd SEM.)

Within one academic period, all passed marks of different blocks will be transferred from the ordinary to the extraordinary exam period. Only those blocks failed in the ordinary period are to be repeated.

BLOCK 1: WRITTEN AND ORAL ASSESSMENT- 60%

- o20% - Oral. If you failed the oral section, you will be required to take an oral exam (contact your teacher for details).
 - o40% - Written. If you failed the written section, you will be required to sit one written exam based on the contents covered throughout the course.
- Note: To calculate an average, students must obtain an overall PASS (5 mark) on both the oral and written parts individually.

BLOCK 2: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 30%

If you have failed block 2, you need to repeat and submit all the items specified in the ordinary exam period in due time and in proper form. You need to hand it in by the official final exam date in the extraordinary period.

Note: To calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1 and 3, it is required that the student obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2.

BLOCK 3: ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 10%

- oThe mark for this block will be transferred from the ordinary period to the extraordinary period.

NOTES:

- 1.Coursework deadlines are established at the beginning of the course. No work will be accepted after the due date.
- 2.Plagiarism is penalized with a FAIL grade, taking the student directly to the extraordinary exam period.
- 3.Students with a ‘dispensa’ are responsible for contacting their subject teacher within the first 5 class days of the semester and for complying with the course requirements.
- 4.Honorable Mention: An honorable mention is recognition of excellence. It is awarded exclusively to students who stand out from their peers academically, as well as in attitude, dedication and teamwork. This decision lies exclusively with the subject teacher.

ALTERNATIVE CONTINUOUS EVALUATION SYSTEM:

This system only applies for those students who are repeating the course, and/or who have an official ‘dispensa’ signed by the dean of the corresponding faculty.

ORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: Dec-Jan. (1st SEM.) - May (2nd SEM.)

EXTRAORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: June (1st SEM.) – June (2nd SEM.)

BLOCK 1: WRITTEN AND ORAL ASSESSMENT- 60%

o20% - Oral. Two pieces are evaluated:

oOne prepared piece of work based on the course topics.

oAn open question / interview section related to the course content, but announced at the time of the oral assessment.

o40% - Written. One written exam based on the contents covered throughout the course.

Note: To calculate an average between the oral and the written, students must obtain an overall PASS (5 mark) on each part individually.

BLOCK 2: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 40%

oTask completion and evaluation of work assigned by the teacher. The tasks and DEADLINES are announced at the beginning of the course.

oCompletion of regular homework assignments which will be handed in through the “aula virtual” or mail.

oOnline task completion and participation (forums, blogs, etc.).

oAttendance to tutorials when called upon.

Note: All tasks and assignments must be handed in in due time and in proper form.

Note: To calculate an average grade with BLOCK 1, it is required that the student obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

Material created and developed specifically for this course: Coursepack 2nd Year Medicine Degree: Scientific English Applied to Medicine

Additional

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/health>

Fitzgerald, P., McCulagh, Marie and Wright, Ross. (2010). English for Medicine in Higher Education Studies. Garnet Education Publishers.

Glendinning, E.H. & Holmström, B.A.S. (2005). English in Medicine. Professional English. Third Edition. Cambridge: CUP.

Murphy, R. (1985, 1994). English Grammar in Use. Cambridge University Press.

Redman, S. (1997). English Vocabulary in Use. Cambridge University Press.

Upjohn, J., et al. (2006). Minimum Competence in Medical English. Grenoble: EDP Sciences.

VVAA (2005). Harrap's Spanish and English Dictionary. McGraw-Hill.

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