

# Scientific English Course Syllabus

**Term:** L2 FdV - Fall 2015

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**Course goal and methodology:** The main goal of the course is for students to gain confidence in their technical public speaking, writing, reading, and listening. We will primarily use hands-on activities where the students will produce documents and projects that they can use in the future and give presentations. We will focus on giving feedback to each student and will monitor their progress in both the course and the tutoring sessions.

**Course format:** The course will consist of 14 meetings in total: 8 regular sessions, 4 presentation sessions, and 2 sessions on improving reports. There will be 4 projects (2 individual and 2 group) throughout the course, each one is completed by one of the presentation sessions. During the 8 regular sessions, we will do in class activities to provide the basis for what the students need for their projects. The 2 report sessions are lead by Tamara and are based on the work done in Petnica.

Optional homework will be assigned to those students who are interested and will be strongly encouraged for those who need more attention, but the only required outside work will be associated with the four projects.

Date	Time	Location	Class Activity	Deliverable
Mon 21/9	11:00-13:00	CV A.11	Introduction to course, Launch Project 1	
Thur 24/9	10:45-13:15	CO 2005	Building your CV and giving an elevator pitch	
Mon 28/9	11:00-13:00	CV A.11	<b>Project 1 - Presenting yourself as a scientist presentations</b>	<b>CV</b>
Thur 1/10	10:45-13:15	CO 2005	Explaining something complex without jargon, Launch Project 2	
Mon 12/10	11:00-13:00	CV A.11	<b>Project 2 - Making science accessible presentations, Launch Project 3</b>	<b>Slides</b>
3 week break - choose scientific journal paper from list and read, optional office hours with Wylie and Sofie				
Mon 2/11	11:00-13:00	CV A.11	About the scientific publishing process and writing cover letters	
Thur 5/11	10:45-13:15	CO 2005	<b>Project 3 - Publishing science presentations</b>	<b>Cover letter</b>
Mon 9/11	11:15-13:15	CV A.11	Giving and listening to instructions, Launch Project 4	
Thur 12/11	10:45-13:15	CO 2005	Common mistakes in English	

Mon 16/11	11:00-13:00	CV A.11	Group work on projects	
Thur 19/11	10:45-13:15	CO 2005	<b>Project 4 - Demonstrate science presentations</b>	
Wed 25/11	9:00-11:00	CO 2005	Improving reports session I with Tamara	
Mon 30/11	9:00-11:00	CV A.11	Group and instructor feedback and course debriefing	<b>Instruction manual</b>
Tue 1/12	9:00-11:00	CO 2005	Improving reports session II with Tamara	

### Projects:

Project 1 - Presenting yourself as a scientist - *due 28 Sept*

- Individual project
- Prepare your CV in English
- Give a 2 minute flash talk describing one of the previous technical experiences listed on your CV
- Evaluation: Student will receive feedback on the CV document and presentation

Project 2 - Making science accessible - *due 12 Oct*

- Group project
- Read and learn about a complex technical process or concept, this does not need to be a deep level of understanding, but enough to explain the basic idea
- As a group, break down the concept and explain it to a non-technical audience with ppt slides, e.g. explain it to your grandpa (Assuming he's not a scientist!)
- Evaluation: Group and individual feedback on the ppt slides and presentation (students will need to submit their slides)

Project 3 - Publishing science - *due 5 Nov*

- Individual project
- Each student chooses a scientific journal article from a list prepared by the instructors
- Read a scientific journal article and prepare a cover letter as if you were submitting the paper for publication
- Give a 2 minute presentation on the key findings of the paper
- Evaluation: Individual feedback on cover letter and presentation

Project 4 - Demonstrate science - *Presentations 19 Nov, manual due 30 Nov*

- Group project
- Students work in groups to create an imaginary device, lab method, procedure etc. that they will explain through a written manual (should take about 5 minutes to go through the manual)
- Each group will give their manual and any necessary tools to another group who will follow the manual to assemble/complete the device/process
- After the demo, students will answer questions about their device/procedure
- The final manuals will be due one week after the demo sessions, allowing students to get feedback from their classmates as to what was clear and unclear
- Evaluation: Individual and group feedback on the manual preparation, feedback from peers on quality of instructions

## Course Evaluation

The final course grade will be based on the four projects (60%), improving reports (15%), and overall participation (25%). Students will be evaluated by the instructors, guest jury members, and their peers on presentations and deliverable items. Students can earn up to 20 points according to the following breakdown:

Projects				Reports	Class participation		
Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Tamara's sessions	Attendance	Preparedness	Activity in class
15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	5%	10%	10%