Communication skills for Engineers and Scientists

科技英語溝通技巧

Course #: EECS120000

Professor: Yun-yin Huang (yyhuang@gapp.nthu.edu.tw)

Class hours: 15:30 – 17:20, Wednesday (W78)

Office hours: By appointment only @ R207, General Building II.

(Make appointments at http://140.114.119.46:8080/consultation/)

Core competency indicators

* The ability to communicate and express oneself in English (35%)
* The ability to think critically and organize ideas logically in English (35%)
* Having the knowledge of English learning strategies and techniques (30%)

Course Description

This course aims at providing undergraduate EECS students with the essential oral communication skills needed in academic and other professional discourse. Common English language, including vocabulary and phrases, will be introduced and applied in various scenarios, such self-promotion pitch, proposal presentation, progress report, discussion and negotiation. The learners can expect to acquire knowledge on effective delivery, design engaging content, and practice oral language to achieve higher fluency. A variety of individual and collaborative activities will be incorporated in class to prepare the learners for future success in school and at workplace.

Course Objectives

1. To increase students' awareness of social and professional expectation of oral communications.
2. To develop strategies for recognizing speech structures, and logical development and clarity of thought, including developing academic/technical vocabulary.
3. To practice communication skills for technical contexts, research pitch, lab meetings, workshops, poster presentation, and Q & A sessions.

Course Requirements

1. Actively participate in all class activities.
2. Complete all assignments on time. No late submission will be accepted.
3. [Leave request] Prior email explaining the date/reason for absence should be sent to BOTH me and the TA.

Required reading

Gallo, C. (2014). Talk like TED: The 9 public speaking secrets of the world's top minds. New York, St. Martin's Griffin.

References:

Zanders, E. & Macleod, L. (2018). Presentation Skills for Scientists: A Practical Guide. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

* THE LAB: https://ori.hhs.gov/the-lab
* Path2Integrity: https://www.path2integrity.eu/
* 3MT: https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/
* TED Ed: https://ed.ted.com/
* NTHU 3MT: https://sites.google.com/gapp.nthu.edu.tw/3mt/home

Assessment

Attendance & participation – 15%
Weekly reflection & group discussion – 10%
Personal pitch (PP1 & PP2, recorded)*2 – 20%
3MT (recorded & onside) – 20%
TED Talk dubbing (onsite) – 20%.
Poster presentation (onsite) – 15%

Tentative Weekly Schedule (Subject to change)

Week	Topic		Assignment
1	Orientation: Course overview, TED Ed (1)		Quiz on syllabus
2	TED Ed (2)		Chap 1. Unleash the master within
3	TED Ed (3)		Chap 2. Master the art of storytelling
4	TED Ed (4)		Chap 3. Have a conversation
5	3MT in a nutshell (one slide, one story) Script revision exercise		Personal pitch 1 due
6	TED talk dubbing I, Review of PP1		
7	4. Teach me something new	7. Stick to the 18-minute rule	Comprehensive check (4), (7)
8	5. Deliver jaw-dropping moments	8. Paint a mental picture	Comprehensive check (5), (8)
9	6. Lighten up	9. Stay in your lane	Comprehensive check (6), (9) Personal pitch 2 due
10	TED talk dubbing II, Review of PP2		
11	3MT mock-up comp + peer review		
12	TED talk dubbing III, Review of the 9 secrets (Concept map)		
13	Research ethic workshop (THE LAB + Path2Integrity)		
14	Poster presentation I		
15	Poster presentation II		
16	✎ Sharing & reflection (The PHD movie)		