



COURSE PROGRAM:
TE0300 Conversational English I
II-2021

General Information

TE0300

Conversational English I

II Cycle 2021

Major: B.A. in Ecotourism / 3rd Year

Type of course: Theoretical / Workshop (Virtual)

Credits: 3

Weekly Class hours: 4

Weekly Out of Class hours: 5

Requisite: LM-1002

Co-requisite: None

Schedule: Mondays, 15 – 19

Instructor's Information

Name: Mag. Eddie Ramírez Rodríguez

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 15 – 17 (email or scheduled Zoom sessions)

Virtual Lessons' Rules:

“Este curso es virtual. Se utilizará la plataforma institucional Mediación Virtual para colocar los documentos y vídeos del curso. Además, se usará para realizar tareas, exámenes y foros. Se atenderán los aspectos establecidos en la Resolución VD-11489-2020 (Lineamientos para la planificación, orientación e implementación de la actividad docente durante el segundo ciclo lectivo de 2020 en la Universidad De Costa Rica. En el marco del estado de Emergencia Nacional declarada vía Decreto Ejecutivo No. 42227-MP-S, vigente desde el pasado lunes 16 de marzo de 2020, por el riesgo de contagio de la enfermedad Covid-19 y de conformidad con lo establecido por la Resolución R-158-2020 y las Circulares R-19-2020 y R-21-2020



que entre otros aspectos establece que durante el II ciclo del año 2020, las actividades académicas se desarrollarán bajo la modalidad virtual, utilizando la plataforma de Mediación Virtual y cualquier otra herramienta estará enlazada con ella.

Reglas para la virtualidad (RESOLUCIÓN VD-11489-2020): los medios de comunicación oficial para este curso es mediación virtual y el correo institucional solamente, el WhatsApp en ninguna circunstancia es una vía oficial de comunicación, una clase virtual requiere la misma presentación personal de una clase presencial (siempre usar camiseta o camisa), si la clase es sincrónica usted debe

estar disponible en cualquier momento de la clase, en caso contrario se considerará ausente, sus entregables deben tener nombre digital adecuado (Practice1-Kevin Brenes) además del nombre dentro del documento, las dudas sobre el curso y los entregables, serán aclaradas solo en horarios de consulta de forma escrita y de forma sincrónica en el espacio para este efecto vía zoom.”

I. Course Description

This workshop-type course has been designed to help students improve and increase fluency and accuracy in Ecotourism-related topics. The course will provide personal, interpersonal, and creative strategies for students to build on their interactive skills. Since one of the major purposes of education is to enable a person to speak clearly and confidently, the course will also provide the learners with the basic principles of speech communication.

II. General Objective

Provide strategic, sociolinguistic and discourse competence in English to students in order to have a better linguistic performance in the professional field of ecotourism.

III. Specific Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Increase fluency on issues concerning Ecotourism and express ideas with greater confidence and solid background knowledge.



- Organize, plan, and present informative speeches based on audience-centered interaction.
- Acknowledge their personal contribution to the conservation and destruction of the environment.
- Increase their use of essential idioms and phrasal verbs.
- Produce more complex utterances using advanced structures.

IV. Contents

These are the topics that will be developed throughout the semester.

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| 1. Current Situation of Tourism in Costa Rica | 9. Life Zones in Costa Rica |
| 2. Biodiversity in Costa Rica | 10. National Parks and Reserves |
| 3. Basic Costa Rican History for Foreigner Tourists | 11. Pre-Columbian cultures |
| 4. Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R | 12. Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field |
| 5. Evolution of Ecotourism | 13. Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector |
| 6. Global Warming and its Consequences | 14. Potential Tourist Attractions |
| 7. Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide | 15. Improvements, Strengths, and Weaknesses in our Touristic Places |
| 8. The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management | 16. Environmental Hazards |
| | 17. Tourism Development in Costa Rica in Comparison to other Countries |

Language Structures

1. The Past Tense, *would+base verb* and *used to* for past habits
2. Gerunds and Infinitives
3. Reported Speech
4. Idioms
5. Use of Adverbs
6. The First Conditional

V. Methodology

The course will be organized in a way that provides the students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience which will prepare them to interact successfully with native and non-native speakers of English on a variety of environmental topics. It will include the following important components:

A. Public speaking: Talk Show, Debate, Persuasive Speech

There will be activities to analyze listeners in terms of how to be sensitive to their needs and interests, and how to talk to and with them. Students will be encouraged to communicate ideas to real people, rather than merely stand up and go through the motions of “giving a speech,” and apply practical activities to analyze the audience, select a topic and a specific purpose, devise a central idea, find verbal and visual support material, and design effective introductions and conclusions as well.

B. ESP (English for specific purposes)

During most of the class periods, students in small groups will have to deliver an oral presentation related to topics that have to do with the students’ major. The students have to choose different sources related to the assigned topics. The sources have to be approved by the professor at least one week before the presentation. Moreover, they have to be sent to the rest of the class together with a summary of their main ideas and a list of the most relevant vocabulary words in the sources, with their corresponding definitions in English. The list must have a minimum of 10 well-chosen words. These presentations must be very dynamic and well-organized. Students are expected to incorporate the principles of public speaking in these demonstrations and prepare a short activity for the group. The day of the presentation, the rest of the class will bring questions to be used in a question-answer exchange. This will be a follow-up activity to grasp the content of each presentation and assimilate the main ideas. The evaluation sheet which will be used to assess these demonstrations will be discussed with the students.

C. Grammar and idioms

Students will have explanations from the teacher and useful practice about the use of different idioms, as well as of the following grammar topics: past tense, *would+base verb* and *used to* for past habits, gerunds and infinitives, reported speech, use of adverbs, and first conditional sentences.



D. Field trip-based Project (previous field trip or virtual tour)

This field trip-based project will imply a careful and systematic preparation. The idea is to choose a touristic place in Costa Rica that offers a virtual visit to it or a previously visited place on a field trip; analyze it in detail, and prepare a detailed report of advantages, disadvantages, opportunities of improvement, and realistic proposals. Appropriate guidelines will be provided.

VI. Evaluation

Description	Percentage
1 Oral presentation about the course topics	15% (10% presentation, 5% summary and sources)
3 Graded in-class tasks on public speaking (Talk Show, Debate, Individual Persuasive Speech)	30% (10% each)
Virtual / Previous Field Trip Project Presentation	25% (15% presentation, 10% written report)
2 Quizzes (Grammar and Idioms)	20% (10% each)
Class participation: attendance to synchronous lessons, preparation of assigned activities, active role in class discussions and classmates' presentations, short assignments	10%

-Because this course meets only once a week, attendance and participation are essential. It is also necessary to access synchronous lessons on time.

- All assignments must be completed ON TIME on the day assigned. No make-up assignments or quizzes will be accepted.



-5 hours per week is the minimum amount of time that should be spent on preparing, reviewing, and practicing material covered in class and carrying out assignments. Because this course will be moving at a rapid pace, it will be very important that you refer to the classroom materials to reinforce learning.

- No Spanish will be allowed in class. Students should take advantage of the limited opportunity they have to express themselves in a second language once a week.

VII. Tentative Timetable

Week	Date	Content	Activity
1	August 16	Syllabus discussion Course description, activities and evaluations Course expectations Introduction to the course	Course orientation and guidelines Selection of topics for Oral Presentations Diagnostic activities (grammar, speaking, pronunciation) Discussion of course expectations
2	August 23	The Current Situation of Tourism in Costa Rica Biodiversity in Costa Rica The Past Tense, <i>would+base verb</i> and <i>used to</i> for past habits	Discussions and analysis of the current situation of tourism in Costa Rica Students' oral presentation 1: Biodiversity in Costa Rica Explanations and activities: The Past Tense
3	August 30	Basic Costa Rican History for Foreigners The Past Tense, <i>would+base verb</i> and <i>used to</i> for past habits	Students' oral presentation 2: Basic Costa Rican History for Foreigners Explanations and activities: The Past Tense



4	September 6	Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R. Gerunds and Infinitives	Students' oral presentation 3: Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R. Explanations and activities: Gerunds and Infinitives Preparation of talk show: The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector
5	September 13	Holiday: Independence Day	No Class
6	September 20	Evolution of Ecotourism Gerunds and Infinitives The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector	Students' oral presentation 4: Evolution of Ecotourism Explanations and activities: Gerunds and Infinitives Talk Show: The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector
7	September 27	Global Warming and its Consequences Reported Speech Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide	Students' oral presentation 5: Global Warming and its Consequences Explanations and activities: Reported Speech Students' oral presentation 6: Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide



8	October 4	Life Zones in Costa Rica	<p>Students' oral Presentation 7: Life Zones in Costa Rica</p> <p>Grammar Quiz 1 (The Past Tense, Gerunds and Infinitives, Reported Speech)</p>
9	October 11	UCR's Technology Disconnection Week	Special Activities
10	October 18	National Parks and Reserves Idioms	<p>Students' oral Presentation 8: National Parks and Reserves</p> <p>Student's oral Presentation 9: Environmental Hazards</p> <p>Explanations and activities: Idioms</p> <p>Preparation of Debate: The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management</p>
11	October 25	Pre-Columbian cultures Adverbs The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management	<p>Students' oral Presentation 10: Pre-Columbian cultures</p> <p>Explanations and activities: Adverbs</p> <p>Debate: The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management</p>
12	November 1	Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field	Students' oral Presentation 11: Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field



		The First Conditional	<p>Explanations and activities: The First Conditional</p> <p>Final Project Guidelines: Virtual / Previous Field Trip</p>
13	November 8	Final Project Preparation	<p>Grammar Quiz 2 (Idioms, Adverbs, The First Conditional)</p> <p>Final Project Preparation</p> <p>Persuasive Speech preparation: Potential Tourist Attractions</p>
14	November 15	Potential Tourist Attractions Final Project Preparation	<p>Persuasive Speeches: Potential Tourist Attractions</p> <p>Final Project Preparation</p>
15	November 22	Final Project Presentations	<p>Final Project Presentations (Oral Presentation and Written Report)</p>
16	November 29	Holiday: Abolition of the Army	No Class
17	December 6	Make-up Test / Proficiency Test (Ampliación / Suficiencia)	



VIII. Bibliography

Alfaro, V., Flores, B. & Flores, M. (2002). Basic English Syntax. Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica: Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio.

Alfaro, V. & Flores, B.(2012). Basic English Syntax (2nd Ed.). Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica: Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio.

Beebe, S and Beebe S. Public Speaking: An audience-centered approach. Allyn & Bacon. 2000

Benjamin, S. *The Public Speaking Handbook*. U.S.A: GoodYear Books, 1996.

Schaller, K. *Principles of effective public speaking: Student workbook*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill, 2002.

McCarthy, M & O'Dell, F. *English Collocations in Advanced Use*. UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Kohnhorst, K. *A Phrasal Verb Affair*. Albany, NY: Pro Lingua Associates, Publishers, 2003.

Watkins, Dana. *The Idiom Advantage: Fluency in Speaking and Listening*. White Plains, NY: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc, 1995.