

COURSE PROGRAM:
TE0300 Conversational English I
II-2022

General Information

TE0300
Conversational English I
II Cycle 2021
Major: B.A. in Ecotourism / 3rd Year
Type of course: Theoretical / Workshop (Low Virtual)
Credits: 3
Weekly Class hours: 4
Weekly Out of Class hours: 3
Requisite: LM-1002
Co-requisite: None
Schedule: Mondays, 15 – 19



Instructor's Information

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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 oral communication in different situations like speeches, debates, talk shows, among others. Some grammar and vocabulary topics will go hand-in-hand with the contents and development of the course.

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 grammatical structures.
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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 | 6. Global Warming and its Consequences |
| 2. Biodiversity in Costa Rica | 7. Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide |
| 3. Basic Costa Rican History for Foreigner Tourists | 8. The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management |
| 4. Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R | 9. Life Zones in Costa Rica |
| 5. Evolution of Ecotourism | 10. National Parks and Reserves |
| | 11. Pre-Columbian cultures |

12. Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field
13. Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector
14. Potential Tourist Attractions
15. Improvements, Strengths, and Weaknesses in our Touristic Places

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

Este curso se impartirá en la modalidad presencial en este II ciclo 2022. Se utilizará la plataforma institucional Mediación Virtual en la modalidad bajo virtual para colocar los documentos pertinentes, presentaciones, materiales y vídeos del curso. Las actividades asincrónicas se realizarán por medio de tareas y foros. El entorno funcionará como medio de comunicación ante cualquier eventualidad que se presente y será el medio para la atención de estudiantes, unido al correo institucional.

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. Students will be encouraged to communicate ideas to real groups of listeners, 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. They will develop these presentations based on topics related to ecotourism, which is their specific field of study.

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

The field trip will be a final class project which will imply a careful and systematic preparation. We will visit a touristic place in order to analyze it in detail, and prepare a detailed report of advantages, disadvantages, opportunities of improvement, and realistic proposals. The goal is for the students to put the language of biodiversity into application in a real context. The destination

will be announced during the first weeks of the course. Appropriate guidelines will also 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)
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, punctuality, and participation are essential.

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

-4 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	Contents	Activities
1	August 15	Holiday: Mother's Day	No Class
2	August 22	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
3	August 29	The Current Situation of Tourism in Costa Rica Guidelines for Oral Presentations 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 Review of guidelines and dates for oral presentations based on articles Explanations and activities: The Past Tense
4	September 5	Biodiversity in Costa Rica 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 1: Biodiversity in Costa Rica Students' oral presentation 2: Basic Costa Rican History for Foreigners Explanations and activities: The Past Tense

5	September 12	<p>Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R.</p> <p>Evolution of Ecotourism</p> <p>Gerunds and Infinitives</p>	<p>Students' oral presentation 3: Describing Specific Endangered Species in C.R.</p> <p>Students' oral presentation 4: Evolution of Ecotourism</p> <p>Explanations and activities: Gerunds and Infinitives</p> <p>Preparation of talk show: The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector</p>
6	September 19	Holiday: Independence Day	No Class
7	September 26	<p>Global Warming and its Consequences</p> <p>Gerunds and Infinitives</p> <p>The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector</p>	<p>Students' oral presentation 5: Global Warming and its Consequences</p> <p>Explanations and activities: Gerunds and Infinitives</p> <p>Talk Show: The Covid 19 Pandemic: Challenges in the Tourism Sector</p>
8	October 3	<p>Reported Speech</p> <p>Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide</p>	<p>Explanations and activities: Reported Speech</p> <p>Students' oral presentation 6: Guidelines for Being a Successful Tour Guide</p> <p>Practice for Quiz 1</p>

9	October 10	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> <p>Field Trip Project Guidelines</p>
10	Saturday, October 15	Field Trip	<p>Since our field trip will be on a Saturday, we won't meet on Monday, October 17</p>
11	October 24	<p>National Parks and Reserves</p> <p>Environmental Hazards</p> <p>Idioms</p>	<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>Field Trip Discussion</p> <p>Preparation of Debate: The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management</p>
12	October 31	<p>Pre-Columbian cultures</p> <p>Adverbs</p> <p>The Hotel Industry in Costa Rica and its Management</p>	<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>

13	November 7	Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field The First Conditional	Students' oral Presentation 11: Social Problems in Costa Rica that Affect the Tourism Field Explanations and activities: The First Conditional Practice for Quiz 2
14	November 14	Final Project Preparation	Grammar Quiz 2 (Idioms, Adverbs, The First Conditional) Final Project Preparation Persuasive Speech preparation: Potential Tourist Attractions
15	November 21	Potential Tourist Attractions Final Project Preparation	Persuasive Speeches: Potential Tourist Attractions Final Project Preparation
16	November 28	Field Trip Project Presentations	Field Trip Project Presentations (Oral Presentation and Written Report)
17	December 5 Tuesday, December 6	Holiday: Abolition of the Army Make-up Test / Proficiency Test (Ampliación / Suficiencia)	No Class

VIII. Bibliography

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

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

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