

Concept Building and Discussion 1

Syllabus

Course Description

In this course, students will build on the communicative strategies they acquired in Communication Strategies 1 and 2 (CS1 and CS2) through a series of individual and team activities related to science and engineering. Emphasis will be placed on negotiation, discussion and problem-solving in a group setting, and the language skills needed to gather information from a variety of sources, summarize that information, and present results and conclusions to an audience. After completing the course, students should be able to find information on a topic through library and Internet sources, discuss this information in a group, and present findings with proper source acknowledgment to an audience in well-formed sentences with pronunciation and intonation comprehensible to an international audience.

Course Goals

- Work in a group and solve simple problems in English with teacher assistance.
- Present simple findings to an audience in well-formed sentences from a prepared script.
- Prepare and deliver a convincing speech with comprehensible pronunciation and intonation.
- Write three-to-four paragraph reports based on the information discussed/researched.
- Use vocabulary from the first 2000 words and the academic word list effectively.
- Use Internet and library resources to find information on a chosen topic.
- Understand the concepts related to plagiarism and include proper source acknowledgment in work produced.

Course Schedule

The pace of the course may change based on the level of the students in the class. The plan below is suggested for an average level class.

- Lesson 1: Course Orientation and start on Unit One (Processes)
- Lesson 2: Unit One (Processes)
- Lesson 3: Unit Two (Results)
- Lesson 4: Unit Two (Results)
- Lesson 5: Unit Three (Problem-Solving)
- Lesson 6: Unit Three (Problem-Solving)
- Lesson 7: Unit Four (Ranking and Debate)
- Lesson 8: Unit Four (Ranking and Debate)
- Lesson 9: Internet Research and Plagiarism
- Lesson 10: Group Project 1 (Negotiating Roles, Selecting a topic)
- Lesson 11: Group Project 2 (Research Proposals)
- Lesson 12: Group Project 3 (Conducting Research)
- Lesson 13: Group Project 4 (Collating Information and Preparing Presentations)
- Lesson 14: Group Presentations and Final Report Instruction
- Lesson 15: Group Presentations and Submission of Final Report

Lessons will be scheduled according to the university's schedule as well as to the available modes of delivery (e.g. classroom, on-line)

Textbook and Materials

- Textbook: *Concept Building and Discussion: Foundations* (2019 version). DTP Publishing.
- Supplementary materials on-line (<http://www.celese.sci.waseda.ac.jp/year2/cbd1>)
- Supplementary materials supplied by the teacher

Evaluation

Examinations = 30%

Evaluation Details: This course has no final test. However, students will be administered two tests during the semester: a Mid-term Discussion Test worth 20%, and an Internet Research and Source Acknowledgement Quiz worth 10%.

Papers = 55%

Evaluation Details: During the semester, students will need to complete four written assignments (each worth 10%) based on in-class discussions and one final report (worth 15%).

In-Class Performance = 15%

Evaluation Details: Toward the end of the semester, students will need to make an oral presentation of findings obtained through a group project. Although the presentations will be done in small groups, grading will be based on each individual student's contributions to the presentation. This assessment component is worth 15% of the final grade.

Other Requirements Relating to Evaluation

- **Attendance Policy**
Students must attend at least two-thirds of the scheduled class meetings, or they will receive an 'F' for their final grade.
- **Homework and Participation**
Students are expected to complete an average of 90 minutes of homework each week to achieve a passing grade in this class. The homework will include written assignments, undertaking Internet- and library-based research, and preparing presentations.

Grading Inquiries

- Students who wish to question their final grades should make inquiries directly to their course teacher who will consider each case based on the student's performance record. Inquiries of this nature can be made until the end of the 7th full day (1 week) after the final grades are made public by the Education Office. Once these 7 days have expired, no further grade inquiries will be considered.

Other

- The majority of students are placed into classes based on an average of their TOEIC-IP scores.
- Final grades can be accessed from Waseda-Net Portal accounts.
- Information about Concept Building and Discussion 1 is on the CELESE website. Please check this site regularly for updates and information about the course.