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20MC113 TECHNICAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

Course Description and Objectives:

To introduce students the specific use of English for the purpose of Technical Communication that would strengthen their skills in the areas of writing and speaking and thereby enable them to function effectively in their professional sphere. The objective of this course is to direct the students towards developing their technical writing skills in particular and overall language proficiency in general. It will be done by making students peruse good samples of technical writing covering a wide range of contemporary issues relevant to the engineering profession. Students will, also be revisiting, the fundamentals of grammar to get trained on use of standard English.

Course Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

- Acquire an understanding of the rules of grammar.
- Strengthen their reading and listening comprehension skills to follow the academic discourse in the engineering classroom.
- Have a command of basic vocabulary related to different subject areas.
- Have a grasp on the mechanics of writing and express their ideas through construction of simple texts.
- Attain language proficiency to participate in the classroom discussions.

Skills:

- Apply different sub skills like skimming, scanning, reading for information, reading for inference etc to understand different kinds of text.
- Apply different sub skills like top down, bottom up approaches to listening, and understand phonetic and phonological features of the English language to deconstruct long spoken discourses.
- Use functional vocabulary relevant to subject areas like environment, tourism, engineering, technology, and media to express ideas lucidly.
- Use appropriate sentence structure, cohesive devices, and diction to construct simple text in writing and regular correspondence like e-mails, letters etc.
- Capture and understand key points during classroom discourses through applying sub skills of writing like note-making, paraphrasing, and summarizing.

Activities:

- Doing phonetic transcription of selected words from the list provided using talking dictionaries of AHD and CALD.

- Completing graded grammar exercises in Rosetta Stone.
- Completing graded listening and reading comprehension exercises in Rosetta Stone.
- Watching TED videos and making notes.
- Watching TED videos to paraphrase and summarize.
- Ad- making.
- Preparing brochure.
- Dialogue writing followed by role play.
- Poster designing.
- Team presentation with PPTs and Group Discussion.

Syllabus

UNIT - 1 **9 Hours**

Text : ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS (Climate Change, Green Cover, Pollution, Renewable vs. Non renewable energy sources (from Energy Unit); Grammar : Articles, Prepositions, Sentence types and construction; Vocabulary : Root, Prefixes, Suffixes • Composition : Paragraph writing (Descriptive and narrative) • Laboratory Practice : Introduction to phonetics (Organs of Speech, Consonants, Vowels and Diphthongs, Syllable, Stress and Intonation)

UNIT – 2 **9 Hours**

Text : EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (Solar power, Cloud computing, Nanotechnology, Wind energy (to be covered from Energy unit)); Grammar : Time and tense (Present-past-future; Helping verbs, Modals); Vocabulary : Synonyms, Antonyms • Composition : Letter writing (Informal); Laboratory Practice : Grammar Practice (Speaking of past, present and future)

UNIT – 3 **9 Hours**

Text : TRAVEL AND TOURISM (Advantages and disadvantages of travel-tourism, Atithi devo bhava, Tourism in India); Grammar : Subject-Verb agreement, Sentence construction; Vocabulary : Idioms and phrases; Composition : Letter writing (Formal); Laboratory Practice : Situational conversations – Role – Plays (Introducing, Greeting, Enquiring, Informing, Requesting, Inviting)

UNIT – 4 **9 Hours**

Text : ENGINEERING ETHICS (Challenger disaster, Biotechnology, Genetic engineering, Protection from natural calamities, How pertinent is the nuclear option? An environment of energy (from Energy Unit)) Avoiding sexist language (Gender Sensitization); Grammar : Sentence transformation (Degrees, Voice, Speech and Synthesis); Vocabulary : Phrasal verbs Composition : Note-making, Text, Nandan Nilekani's In Search of Our Energy Solutions (from Energy Unit) Summarizing, Text on "Flight from conversation" (New York Times),

Laboratory Practice : Situational conversations, Role-Plays (Emotions, Directions, Descriptions, Agreements, Refusals, Suggestions)

UNIT – 5 **9 Hours**

Text : MEDIA MATTERS (History of media, Language and media, Milestones in media, Manipulation by Media, Thousands march against nuclear power in Tokyo (from Energy Unit), Entertainment media, Interviews); Grammar : Common errors; Vocabulary : One-word substitutes; Composition : E-mail – Short message service (SMS), Writing advertisements, Reporting; Social media - Blogging, Facebook, Twitter (acceptable and non acceptable content); Laboratory Practice : Group discussions – (Topics from Energy Unit), Dumping of nuclear wastes, Exploration of eco-friendly energy options, Lifting of subsidies on petrol, Diesel, LPG etc)

Text Book:

"Mindscapes - English for Technologists and Engineers", Orient Black Swan, 2012.

Reference Books:

1. V. R. Narayana Swamy, "Strengthen Your Writing", 1st edition, Orient Longman, 2003.
2. Thomas Elliott Berry, "The Most Common Mistakes in English Usage", 1st edition, Tata McGraw Hill, 2004.
3. T. Balasubramanian, "A Textbook of English Phonetics for Indian Students", Macmillan Ltd., 2000.
4. Sasikumar.V and P.V. Dhamija,. "Spoken English: A Self-Learning Guide to Conversation Practice", 34th Reprint, Tata McGraw Hill, New Delhi, 1993.
5. Margaret M Maison, "Examine Your English", 1st edition, Orient Longman, 1999.
6. Ashraf Rizwi, "Effective Technical Communication", Tata McGraw Hill, 2005.