English for Informatics: course description and requirements

Description:

- practical course; 1 session/ week

- English for Special Purposes (ESP): English for Informatics

- minimally required level: intermediate (B2) for the 4 skills: listening, reading, writing, speaking

- main objectives: to acquire and consolidate speciality-related terminology and skills

Attendance:

- compulsory (85%); 2 absences at most and well-justified

Evaluation (1st semester):

- continuous

- students will receive their final grades at the end of the semester based on:

> ➢ **a test –** at the end of the semester (target skills: listening, reading, writing, use of English)

> ➢ **class activity (worth up to 3 points)** based on the following materials, which must be ready for checking on the day of the test:

>> a) listening scripts (= handwritten transcription of the audio tracks which accompany the textbook – *Infotech*; before or after the corresponding session; Ss must be able to read them fluently and express personal opinions on the content)

>> b) textbook – *Infotech*: exercises properly done

>> c) *Grammar Activities* and various progress tests

> ➢ **speaking –** in class, throughout the semester

>> - minimal requirement: all Ss must be able to perform the speaking tasks at the end of each unit of the textbook

Course materials:

- Infotech, Grammar Activities, progress tests

- extra-materials (on demand)

- dictionary: www.merriam-webster.com

- others

Rules for this class (which count as evaluation criteria):

1) Use English at all times, including when working in groups with your peers.

Don't worry about the mistakes you may make. The point is to learn from them.

"Success does not consist in never making mistakes but in never making the same one a second time." **George Bernard Shaw**

Don't censure your fellow students for the language mistakes they may make. Your corrections must be made in a helpful not in a discouraging manner.

2) Make sure you bring your folder to each class. If you don't have it on you, it is as if you were absent.

3) In case you cannot attend a certain session, you must provide a good reason either in advance or the next time you come to class. Also, it is your obligation either to come with a different group or fill in the corresponding handouts on your own for the following session. This situation must not happen more than **twice a semester**.

4) Listen carefully to the instructions and follow them precisely. Filling in the handouts is compulsory for all students, irrespective of their level of English. Feel free to ask for help (e.g. repetition, explanation, translation) whenever there is something you haven't understood.

"There are no foolish questions and no man becomes a fool until he has stopped asking questions." ― attributed to Charles Proteus Steinmetz (mathematician and electrical engineer)

5) Phones or other electronic devices may be used in class for purposes related to the course (e.g. consulting an on-line dictionary) but **not** for any other purposes (e.g. checking or sending messages, playing, etc.)

6) Check you e-mails for extra-materials, which you must print and bring to class. They will be sent no later than 5 days in advance.

7) Make sure you meet the deadlines.

8) The portfolios must be COMPLETE and the handouts must be put IN ORDER and CORRECTLY filled in.
The students whose level of English is below intermediate must make an effort to catch up with the others.
Extra points can be earned for serious supplementary work.

N.B. This list is not exhaustive. The shortness of the list is an expression of trust in your common sense.