Title of course: Idioma Moderno I (Inglés)
Código: 10BBA90000

Type: Required    Year: 1    Semester: 1 y 2
ECTS Credits: 8
Idioma: Castellano
Coordination:

Faculty:
Rhian Owen Haward
Jura Zymantas

Prerequisites:
This course is for students at around the level of Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE). In order to obtain full benefit from the course, students should have at least an upper intermediate level, approaching that of FCE, and be able to communicate relatively fluently on subjects of a general nature. All students are required to take the placement test in advance, whether or not they hold an official certificate.

Background information:

Workload distribution:
Class hours 134
Independent study 106

Observations:
As the language classes are in small groups, full participation on the part of the student is expected throughout. Students receive continuous feedback throughout the course on their performance and their learning.

Given the nature of language acquisition, the figure given for independent study is no more than an estimation.

Contribution of the course to the programme:
All students are required to do an academic exchange at foreign universities, many of which offer courses taught through the medium of English.

In an increasingly international business environment, a good command of English is also essential for effective communication to take place, not only with native speakers but also as a lingua franca between non-native speakers.

Learning objectives of the course:
By the end of the second year of study, students are expected to have reached the level of the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) or C1 level in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR); students successfully completing English I will therefore have reached a point beyond FCE level (B2 in the CEFR) and will be able to:

- Understand extended speech and discussion on both general topics and areas specifically related to the field of business.
- Read articles and reports concerned with current affairs and contemporary problems.
- Express themselves with a degree of fluency that makes interaction with native speakers possible without too much effort for either party.
- Produce clear text on a range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
- Draw on available resources to full advantage by learning to use a learner’s dictionary and selecting appropriate online resources.

The student will learn to:

- Skim, scan and read a text in detail, adapting the skill to the task in hand.
- Identify main points, take notes and produce a written or oral summary of the content.
- Become familiar with the language of newspaper headlines
- Produce a text which structures information clearly and coherently. Essay writing is seen as preparation for business reports in future courses.
- Understand the main points of a presentation, dialogue or group discussion.
- Listen for detail, identify key points and supporting arguments and take notes.
- Distinguish between formal and informal registers in spoken and written English.
- Prepare and deliver a presentation including visuals.
- Participate actively in discussions, meetings and decision-making processes.
- Research, present and discuss material related to aspects of management studies.
- Identify their own strengths and weaknesses and take appropriate action.
- Become more aware of the nature of language learning and apply study skills accordingly.

**Skills developed:**

Students will develop their ability to:

Work as a team: collaborate actively in favour of class objectives by readily sharing any information that contributes to collective projects and by showing solidarity and respect to all those involved.

Learn how to learn: reflect on their own capabilities and on their own contribution to their environment so as to plan their own academic and professional career.

**Content and methodology:**

Classes are conducted in English throughout, and demand full participation and commitment on the part of the individual student and of the group. Effective learning also depends on extensive individual work outside class, including practice by means of the interactive DVD-ROM provided with the course book, writing tasks, extensive and intensive reading, studying structural and lexical aspects of the language, preparing presentations and researching topics related with management studies.

Speaking skills: activities designed to work on speaking skills include discussions, debates, roleplays, case studies and more specific tasks such as giving instructions, describing a product, counselling or giving advice and obtaining information. During the second semester, sessions are programmed to deal specifically with presentation skills: students will be divided into teams responsible for carrying out a project and presenting the results to the rest of the class.

Listening comprehension: students will practise listening for gist, identifying key points and listening for detail through classroom activities and resources for individual use drawing not only on learning materials, but also on a wide range of authentic material from sources such as radio and television programmes and the internet.
Reading: different skills are developed, including skimming, scanning and reading for study purposes, using texts drawn from a variety of sources. Students will become aware of the difference between formal and more informal registers.

Writing: tasks include essay writing, not as an end in itself, but in preparation for reports, memos and other types of business communication to be practised at more advanced levels. Students also learn to write letters of advice in response to a request, extracting relevant information from a series of texts.

Linguistic resources: all the above skills demand constant consolidation and expansion of syntactic and lexical knowledge, and practice in pronunciation and intonation. This involves focusing on aspects of the language that students are already familiar with, but do not yet control fully.

As mastery of a foreign language can only be achieved by extensive exposure, learners are strongly recommended to take every possible opportunity to practise outside the classroom. This includes not only regular reading of the press in English, but also watching satellite television, seeing films in English, listening to songs, contacting exchange students and taking full advantage of the wide range of resources available online.

Assessment:
Assessment is carried out by means of mid-year and final examinations, written and spoken assignments, portfolios of written work to be handed in at the end of the course, and participation in class. Grades are awarded from 0-10 according to how well students have achieved the learning objectives.

All students registered for this course, either for the first time or because they are repeating the course with full class attendance, are required to pass both parts (oral and written) with a minimum grade of 5. Those students who fail the final exam and are resit in July "primera convocatoria extraordinaria" are only required to take the part they have failed. Students failing a second time have to retake both parts of the examination.

Speaking skills: these are assessed by means of (1) a team presentation given before an audience, and graded according to clarity, interest and relevance of content, visual support and linguistic performance as taught in the presentation module (2) discussions in groups of two or three on topics of general or social interest, graded according to four criteria: structure and vocabulary, pronunciation and intonation, interactive skills and ability to develop an argument.

Listening comprehension is not assessed as a separate skill but is integrated with speaking.

Reading: students are tested on their ability to skim a text and get the gist, to scan a text and locate specific information, to deduce the meaning of unknown words and to distinguish between key points and supporting arguments.

Writing: students are evaluated on their ability to structure information clearly, write coherent paragraphs, use grammatical structures and vocabulary appropriately and to develop and support an argument with the correct use of discourse markers and cohesive devices. This will be done on the basis of a standard for/against essay, and a letter of advice drawing on information from texts.

Grammar and lexis is tested in the mid-year and final exam. Participation: a proportion of the oral grade is allocated to participation in class. Students are expected to speak English in class and show commitment to their tasks. They are also evaluated on a portfolio of writing to be handed in at the end of the course: all writing tasks are to be corrected where necessary and presented with a full analysis of errors.
Students will be able to monitor their progress not only by means of the results of examinations, assignments and other course tasks, but also through feedback given during the course on progress, participation, individual strengths and weaknesses and approach to language learning.

In addition to this, a grade from 1 to 4 (where 4 is excellent and 1 needs further work) will be awarded to reflect the extent to which students have succeeded in developing the key competencies related to the subject. These will be awarded on the basis of classroom participation, the portfolio of written work and the work in teams as shown in the project carried out during the second semester. This independent indicator serves to track each student’s progress throughout the programme, and also contributes to the participation grade.

**Basic bibliography:**

**Additional bibliography or material:**
Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners