

Course title	Listening and Speaking Skills Development I				
Course type	Required				
Level	Foundation				
Year / Semester	1 st Year / 1 st Semester				
Teacher's name	Angela Marinou				
ECTS	N/A	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course purpose and objectives	<p><u>Course Purpose:</u></p> <p>Students will work on enhancing their listening and speaking skills through various interactive activities. They will learn how to use the language fluently, accurately and effectively on a wide range of general academic, vocational or leisure topics. They will learn how to understand spoken language on both familiar and unfamiliar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life. They will learn how to understand the main ideas of propositionally and linguistically simple speech on both concrete and abstract topics delivered in a standard dialect. They will listen to authentic academic lectures, debates, discussions and presentations, and practise summarizing and discussing the main points. They will learn how to identify speaker's viewpoints, attitudes, mood, tone as well as information content. They will engage in role-plays and group discussions to improve their fluency and accuracy in spoken English. Students will develop their public speaking skills through individual and group presentations. They will practise summarising and paraphrasing information and expressing their opinions and ideas clearly and convincingly. Special attention will be given to pronunciation, intonation, and appropriate use of formal and informal language.</p> <p><u>Course Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop students' conversational and discursive abilities; ▪ Reinforce students' core listening skills; ▪ Develop students' public speaking abilities; ▪ Provide students with the necessary skills to interpret audio materials accurately. 				
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grasp the main points and key information in conversations, discussions, presentations, and broadcasts related to familiar topics. ▪ Comprehend specific details, factual information, opinions, and attitudes conveyed in spoken texts on familiar subject. ▪ Understand a range of accents, speech rates, and styles encountered in various audio materials, including those from non-native speakers and regional varieties. 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deduce meaning from context and identify implied information, attitudes, intentions, and emotions conveyed in spoken discourse. ▪ Engage in conversations on familiar topics with increased fluency, maintaining communication despite some pauses and hesitation. ▪ Express opinions, thoughts, and feelings on a range of familiar topics using a wider variety of vocabulary and more complex sentence structures. ▪ Demonstrate improved accuracy in grammar, pronunciation and intonation, enabling clear and understandable communication. ▪ Initiate and sustain conversations in different contexts, such as social situations, work-related discussions, or academic settings. ▪ React appropriately to different conversational cues, including showing agreement, disagreement, clarification, and asking for repetition or clarification. ▪ Narrate personal experiences, describe events, situations, and give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. ▪ Use various communication strategies to overcome language barriers, such as rephrasing, circumlocution, or paraphrasing. ▪ Organise thoughts and ideas coherently when speaking, linking them with appropriate connectors and markers.
Course content	<p><u>Listening Skills Development</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyday Conversations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to listening comprehension through everyday dialogues. ▪ Listening activities focused on understanding casual conversations on common topics. 2. Audio Materials Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exposure to various audio materials (podcasts, interviews, short lectures). ▪ Activities to practice extracting specific information and understanding different accents and speech styles. 3. Audio Materials Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exposure to various audio materials (podcasts, interviews, short lectures). ▪ Activities to practice extracting specific information and understanding different accents and speech styles. 4. Listening for Detail and Inference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exercises emphasising listening for specific details and inferring implied meanings. ▪ Engaging with spoken passages to identify opinions, attitudes, or intentions conveyed in the discourse. 5. Further Listening Techniques

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exercises developing different listening techniques <p><u>Speaking Skills Development</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conversational Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pair and group discussions on various topics related to personal experiences, interests, and current events. ▪ Role-plays and situational dialogues for practicing functional language in different contexts. 2. Vocabulary Expansion and Pronunciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocabulary enhancement exercises focusing on idiomatic expressions and colloquial phrases. ▪ Pronunciation drills and activities aimed at improving stress, intonation, and rhythm in speech. 3. Presentation Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to giving short presentations on familiar topics. ▪ Planning and delivering presentations with an emphasis on coherence and clarity. 4. Interactive Tasks and Real-life Scenarios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaging in debates, problem-solving tasks, and simulations to promote critical thinking and communication skills. ▪ Practice sessions simulating real-life situations (phone conversations, giving directions, etc.) to apply functional language skills. 5. Knowledge implementation by solving various examinations' past papers.
Teaching methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designing tasks that require learners to engage in real-life communication scenarios such as problem-solving, debates, discussions, and information gap activities. ▪ Encouraging pair and group work to promote interaction and collaboration among students. ▪ Using authentic audio recordings, podcasts, interviews, and videos that represent real-world language use and diverse accents to enhance listening comprehension. ▪ Preparing students for listening tasks through prediction exercises, vocabulary preview, or activating prior knowledge related to the listening topic. ▪ Providing varied listening tasks (multiple choice, gap-fill exercises, summarizing, etc.) to enhance different listening skills like gist understanding, identifying details, inferring, and evaluating information. ▪ Follow-up discussions, role-plays, or debates related to the listening material to reinforce understanding and encourage students to express opinions and ideas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structured conversation practice sessions focusing on specific language functions (asking for opinions, giving advice, expressing agreement/disagreement) to facilitate speaking fluency ▪ Engaging students in role-plays or simulations of real-life scenarios (job interviews, customer service situations, negotiations) to apply language in context. ▪ Providing constructive feedback and error correction during speaking tasks to help students improve accuracy and fluency. ▪ Using repetition exercises and pronunciation drills to improve articulation, stress, rhythm, and intonation patterns. ▪ Incorporating technology such as language learning apps, online platforms, and interactive multimedia resources to engage students and provide additional practice opportunities. ▪ Providing opportunities for individualized attention through tutorials, extra practice sessions, or additional materials for students requiring extra support.
Bibliography	<p><u>Required Textbooks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paul Dummett, <i>Reflect Listening & Speaking 4, 1st Edition</i>, 2022, National Geographic. ▪ Online Resources/Activities through the National Geographic website. <p><u>Additional Material:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Katrina Gormley, <i>Ultimate English B1+ Student's Book</i>, 2020, Hamilton House. ▪ Katrina Gormley, <i>Ultimate English B1+ Workbook</i>, Hamilton House. ▪ Authentic academic material.
Assessment	<p>Continuous assessment methods are designed to offer a holistic view of students' language development.</p> <p>The assessment of students is made up of two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ final exam (50 marks) ▪ continuous assessment (50 marks) <p>The 50 marks of the continuous assessment is comprised for example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ quizzes and tests ▪ homework assignments ▪ speaking and presentation tasks ▪ participation <p>The final written exam carries 50 marks and takes place at the end of each academic semester. This exam tests the whole content of a course taught in the current semester. The final mark for each course is the sum of the continuous assessment mark and the final written exam.</p>
Language	English