

Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología

ULACIT - Elective Courses with Costa Ricans

	Course Name	Language of Instruction	Course Description
General Education	Freshman Seminar (Human Relationships)	Spanish/English	The Costa Rican Coalition for Development (CINDE) found, in a survey of human resource managers in 2008, that there is a number of soft skills that employers take into consideration when hiring staff. The purpose of this course is to develop in all freshman students, abilities to perform effectively at the interpersonal level. Topics include leadership, teamwork, ethical behavior, productivity and stress management, intercultural relations, motivation and customer service, among others. The development of these skills will expand transversely in subsequent courses throughout the run. The course "Human Relations" is given in the form of "Freshman Seminar", which implies that it features additional accompaniment of a psychologist who ensures the smooth transition of students to college life. This course requires students to spend three hours a week in classes, as well as nine hours of supervised individual and group work, including attention to online learning activities. The course has no prior requirements.
	Argumentation and Rhetoric	English/Spanish	To be an effective professional and engaged citizen requires active and informed involvement in the world through public life. Coexistence and cooperation bolstered by empathy and respect allow professionals and citizens to participate in diverse and pluralistic communities—demonstrating understanding and appreciation of cultures, beliefs and behaviors differing from their own. The informed professional (citizen) has the wherewithal to tackle both problems and opportunities with critical and ethical reasoning. She or he is able to engage astute scientific thinking and appropriate technologies to meet challenges of the milieu in which he or she lives and works. Additionally, the informed professional (citizen) may comfortably express him or herself in at least two languages (English and Spanish)—both orally and in written expositions. Through academic debate, the course endeavors to guide each student to develop logical reasoning and rhetorical skills. After completing this course, students should be able to construct coherent arguments, free of logical fallacies and supported by the reliable evidence. Moreover, students should be able to employ a variety of rhetorical and stylistic elements in their argumentative communications. . Furthermore, students are expected to become critical thinkers and communicators, with abilities to analyze, investigate, organize and compose written and oral presentations on social and political issues. Topics in this course include, among others, the nature of controversy, evidence, types of reasoning, as well as the obstacles to critical thinking. Conversely, students are directed in the art of building arguments and offering rebuttals to refute claims when engaged in both formal and informal debates. In this course students are directed to present persuasive, rationally based, arguments from emotionally constant footing, which is informed through meaningful audience analysis.
	Moral Reasoning and Ethical Decision-Making	English	Leaders who work and serve in the 21st century must take into account various ethical standards and make decisions on the copious array ethical dilemmas that they may face from the complexity problems arising out of our modern and post-modern human experience. This course offers students the opportunity to learn the nuances of systematic moral reasoning. Students will learn to explore and evaluate moral beliefs, arguments and ethical issues, by examining various concepts, theories, and principles of ethical reasoning. Students will explore a wide range of topics (obligation and rights, justice and freedom, assumptions and value systems). Students will learn to evaluate their own assumptions and develop the ability to face ethical dilemmas of everyday life with awareness and logical moral reasoning.

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	Multimedia and the Internet	Spanish	<p>For personal and professional reasons, students should be able to use multimedia tools and resources to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information. They should also be able to use digital technologies, communication tools and social networks to participate actively in a democratic society and an economy in which knowledge prevails.</p> <p>The Multimedia and Internet course aims to develop the ability of students to prepare presentations, Web pages and other formats that incorporate text, sound, graphics and animation. Such competency will allow them to produce materials to inform, train or entertain others, as well as designing electronic portfolios for academic and professional. Throughout the course, students become familiar with the Internet, the purposes and uses of media in society, hardware, operating systems and software for multimedia production and editing. Then, they will deepen on the characteristics and uses of text, graphics and animation, audio and video in multimedia management and multimedia projects on the Web.</p>
	Spanish Writing and Style	Spanish	<p>Spanish Writing and style complements the academic formation of a student in the area of Humanities, is an introductory course that belongs to the curricula of all the programs offered by ULACIT. The course goals are oriented towards the importance and creative application of oral and written communication in accordance with the Spanish language rules. The sub-goals are aimed at developing the ability to communicate properly, increasing argumentative text production, raising awareness of the linguistic standards of Spanish, encouraging creativity in the process of writing and argumentation, engaging students in critical and analytical reading and improving the ability to self-correct linguistic errors.</p>
Culture & Communication	Expressions of the Human Spirit	English	<p>These course focuses are the development of student's aesthetic responsiveness to and their ability in interpreting various forms of cultural expression. These abilities are realized through the study of painting, sculpture, architecture, theater, music, and dance. By studying different historical eras and places, this course offers numerous opportunities for students to learn about art movements from an interdisciplinary vantage point. Students will engage the world of the arts and ideas through intellectual, critical and aesthetic reasoning. The course includes visits to exhibitions, performances, as well as exchanges with artists, directors or curators.</p>
	World Religions	English	<p>This course will survey the major religious traditions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Ancient religious traditions, which have functioned in the development of modern expressions of religious practices, will be considered in their cultural and historical context. The course will also explore approaches to and the nature of religious language and the significance of interfaith dialogue today.</p>
	Music Appreciation	English	<p>This participatory course is designed so that students may study musical works through listening and intuitive response. Students will be exposed to works of baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary, impressionist and nationalist expression. Students learn to recognize popular rhythms, folk and classical music from Costa Rica as well. Moreover, students may develop critical skills and broaden their cultural horizon as they learn to identify many musical styles and arrangements.</p>
Social Sciences	Cualitative Research Methods	Spanish	<p>The future professional knows how to search, process and analyze information from different sources, in order to identify, formulate and solve problems. This course is an opportunity for students to become familiar with the methods and techniques of qualitative research. We discuss the ways of thinking and specific practices associated with collaborative research approaches. Paradigms, their usefulness in understanding the assumptions implicit in any process of inquiry, and the typical assumptions of qualitative research are studied. In short, the course aims to help students learn to conceptualize and design qualitative studies.</p> <p>Students will learn to design and implement observation tools, interviews and focus groups. They will also become familiar with the methods of documentary review as they conduct a collaborative research project on a small scale, allowing them to demonstrate understanding of the theoretical traditions of qualitative research, the researcher's role, ethics, fieldwork preparation, methods of qualitative data collection , organization, analysis and interpretation of data and drafting the qualitative research report.</p>

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	Quantitative Research Methods in Social Sciences	Spanish	<p>Nowadays, good decisions are led by data. In every aspect of our lives, and even more in the business world, an amazing variety of data is available for decision making. Currently, professionals in all disciplines must justify their decisions based on the data provided. For this reason, in the course of quantitative methods in Social Sciences, students learn to compile, organize and interpret quantitative data based on the resolution of specific problems in real contexts. Unlike other more traditional statistic courses, this course involves students directly in all the phases of implementation of a quantitative research work, allowing them to manipulate real data associated to study events of their interest which permits to consolidate statistic concepts while putting them into practice. The course covers topics such as elaboration and application of questionnaires, as well as the most employed methods for organization, description and analysis of raw data. In addition, it includes topics such as the normal curve and sampling methods; verification of differences among averages, analysis of variance, chi-square and correlation.</p>
Political & Economic Sciences	Development Economy	Spanish	<p>The private sector is the engine of national economic growth and wealth creation, vital to generating employment opportunities and improving the living conditions of people. This is why ULACIT strives to train professionals who are able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization and are willing to seriously consider entrepreneurship as a career choice. In this course, students become familiar with the process of creating a business, from the identification of an idea to the definition of marketing strategies: financial, legal, organizational and operational. The purpose is to develop skills to start their own business and think creatively about the design of products and services that meet the needs of customers and users in the commercial and social field. All students will learn to develop a business plan together. The course concludes with a business plan competition in an exhibition open to the public, in which each team "sells" to third parties their business ideas.</p>
	Costa Rica & World Affairs	English	<p>The objective of this course is to increase students' capacity to engage civic responsibility and national challenges, as they are interconnected with global problems, effectively through applied research. This course requires student's use skills that they have acquired throughout the course of their university studies. Students will learn to identify a specific problem and diagnose its symptoms and causes and understand its interrelationships with other problems. Further, students will seek solutions; noting the consequences of each—denoting the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.</p>
	Globalization, Environment and Human Development	Spanish	<p>To be an informed and responsible citizen of the world, students should be able to appreciate the various ways in which societies organize politics, social life, economic alliances and relationships among individuals. Such knowledge and understanding is the mechanism that increases the capabilities of students to act responsibly and effectively to civic challenges of global problems and dilemmas faced by Costa Rica and humanity. The course "Globalization, Environment and Human Development" aims to educate students about an international perspective and interdisciplinary global society. Students will learn the various ways in which human beings with different cultures, beliefs and behaviors than their own, have organized their existence. They will also investigate and report on the geographic, demographic, cultural, political, social and environmental characteristics of the different regions. Students will improve their skills to express and act properly with regard to various global challenges associated with environmental geography, population and migration, coherence and cultural diversity, as well as the geopolitical, economic and social development of each of continent.</p>

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