Coordinator Nicoletta di Blas, Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Politecnico di Milano

Since 2017, a course on "Communication Skills" has been offered each year to ASP students. The course is inspired by the MIT model of Communication-Intensive courses, where communication principles are applied to specific subject matters and areas of interest for the students. Likewise, the "Communication Skills" for ASP spans the whole program, asking students to apply communication principles to the spring school's paper first and then to the final project document and presentation.
The course enhances the online, asynchronous component, to fit the program's need of optimizing the students' mobility.

Objectives
The course aims at (1) raising the students' awareness on communication relevance and issues, with a special emphasis on the "human" factor ("addressing the addressee") and (2) equipping the students with basic and advanced skills on how to be clear and persuasive, in oral and written communication (public speaking and report writing).
In addition, following an experimental activity carried out in year 2019, a support to "mentoring" will be included, in the form of a video-tutorial on how to make a CV (with examples). This input is meant to be followed up by peer-tutoring (ASP alumni).

Syllabus

PART 1: communication – basic
- Basic elements of communication sciences & rhetoric. The focus is on "how to be clear", taking into proper consideration the addressee(s) and the context (common ground).
- Assignment: executive summary of the spring school's final paper.

PART 2: communication – advanced
- Advanced elements of communication: argumentation theory. The focus is on "how to be persuasive", as well as on being able to identify potentially deceitful arguments.
- Assignment: apply guidelines to the final project defense.

PART 3: final project presentation & defense
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Assignment: apply guidelines to the final project presentation.

TIME LINE: Year 1st, May –Year 2nd, Sept.

May, Year 1st
Kick-OFF
(In presence) Introduction to the course Explanation on how the course work.

Year 1st
Mooc by the instructor on all the 3 parts of the course (online)
The MOOC deals with: how to be clear, how to be persuasive, how to present in public, how to write a project proposal, how to write a scientific paper. It is organized into 5 "weeks", each divided into 5 modules, and is complemented by quizzes and exercises.

Summer, Year 1st
Activity 1
(Online) preparation of the executive summary of the spring school paper
The summaries will be delivered in a cloud space, allowing students and instructor to cooperate if needed. Students will be allowed up to 3 re-submissions of the summary, following the instructor's comments and feedback

Summer, Year 2nd
Activity 2
(Online) preparation of the executive summary of the final project paper
The summaries will be delivered in a cloud space, allowing students and instructor to cooperate if needed.

Summer, Year 2nd
Activity 3
(In presence, **2 full days, at POLIMI and POLITO)** check of the final project presentations
Rehearsal of the final presentations, in order to get feedback on clarity, organization, key messages etc. When possible, a member of the ASP board attends the sessions as well.

Summer, Year 2nd
Activity 4
(Online) preparation of the final project "defense"
Groups are asked to get set with respect to: what the strong points of the project and the key messages to convey are; possible objections by the board and ways to cope with them (deciding which objections to anticipate themselves).