Fakultät für Informatik
Facoltà di Scienze e Tecnologie informatiche
Faculty of Computer Science

COURSE DESCRIPTION – ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

Course title	**Technical and Scientific Communication**
Course code	72004
Scientific sector	M-FIL/02
Degree	Master in Computer Science (LM-18)
Semester	2
Year	1
Credits	4
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	24
Total lab hours	--
Total exercise hours	12
Attendance	Strongly Recommended
Prerequisites	Higher-Level English Language
Course page	https://ole.unibz.it/

Specific educational objectives	The course belongs to the type "affini o integrative – formazione affine" in the curriculum "Software Engineering and IT Management".
	This course is a compulsory course for the Master in Computer Science Programme. For IT people knowledge transfer is crucial. Therefore, this course is designed specifically to improve written and oral communication competence and skills of students in scientific and technical contexts.

Lecturer	Giancarlo Guizzardi
Contact	Piazza Domenicani 3, Room 3.04, Giancalo.Guizzardi@unibz.it
Scientific sector of lecturer	INF/01
Teaching language	English
Office hours	By previous appointment via e-mail.
Lecturing Assistant (if any)	--
Contact LA	--
Office hours LA	--
List of topics	• Technical writing • Speech preparation and presentation • Learning styles • Communication and Group work
Teaching format	Frontal lectures and seminars, exercises in groups, cognitive exercises. Each of the three main methods of scientific communication (writing, speaking, and preparing a presentation) will involve the students discussing each other's work.

Learning outcomes	Applying knowledge and understanding: • Be able to understand and write documentation for technical, scientific reporting. Making judgments • Be able to independently select the documentation required • to keep abreast of the frequent technological innovations in the

field by using a wide variety of documentary sources: books, web, magazines.

Communication skills

- Be able to structure and prepare scientific and technical documentation describing project activities.
- Be able to present in a fixed time the content of a scientific / technical report in front of an audience also composed of non - specialists.

Learning skills

- Be able to autonomously extend the knowledge acquired during the study course by reading and understanding scientific and technical documentation
- Be able to independently keep up to date with developments in the most important areas of Computer Science.

Assessment	Written and oral: • Written exam based on a scientific or technical article written by the student on a topic chosen from the field of computer science. • Oral presentation by the student during the exercise session scheduled. The allocated time is from 15 to 30 minutes including feedback by the students in the class for the presenter.
Assessment language	English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	An assessment score out of 100 points is given. The evaluation criteria is as follows:
	
	• Written examination (a short paper): The evaluation is based on how much the scientific paper complies with the principles of good scientific and technical writing. The short paper will be sent in advance for adequate evaluation. Specifically the followin g elements will be assessed:
	    o Quality and structure of the paper: 30 points
	    o Language used in the paper: 10 points
	    o Use of illustrations: 10 points
	    o Correct formatting based on the constraints: 10 points
	• Oral presentation on the chosen topic in computer science (15 to 30 minutes presentation including feedback). The evaluation is based on
	    o how well the presentation slides are designed (15 points)
	    o whether the oral communication skills are gained by the student (25 points)

Required readings	• M. Alley, The Craft of Scientific Writing, Third Edition, Springer- Verlag, 1996 (http://writing.eng.vt.edu) • M. Davis, Scientific papers and presentations, San Diego, Acad. Press, 2000 All other material will be produced in house.

Supplementary readings	• Zobel, J., Writing for Computer Science: The Art of Effective Communication, 2000. • Tufte E.R., The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. 2 nd ed., Graphics Press, Cheshire, 2001. • B. Greetham, How to write better essays, 2nd ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2008 • S.E. Lucas, The Art of Public Speaking, 10 th . Ed., McGrawHill, 2009. • S. William, E.B. White, The elements of style, 4th ed., 10th printing, Boston, Allyn and Bacon, 2004
Software used	--