



Course unit English denomination	The PhD student in the research world: Part I - How to make a talk
SS	04/GEOS-02
Teacher in charge (if defined)	Prof. Giulio Di Toro
Teaching Hours	12
Number of ECTS credits allocated	2
Course period	May/June 2026
Course delivery method	☒ In presence ☐ Remotely ☐ Blended
Language of instruction	English
Mandatory attendance	☒ Yes (75% minimum of presence) ☐ No
Course unit contents	Part I: How to make a talk. This course focuses on developing the skills needed to deliver impactful presentations. Today people have limited time to make decisions. In an interview, one might have only few minutes to impact on someone, get a job and change her/his life. One has to prepare carefully her/his CV to be interviewed, but also the talk for the interview and think about the questions the people in the audience can make. Possible applications of short talks include: Job interviews; Viva of B.S., M.S., Ph.D. thesis, Scientific meetings, Professional reports.
Learning goals	By the end of the course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to design and deliver clear and compelling presentations, tailored to a variety of professional and academic settings. They will learn strategies for organizing content effectively, engaging their audience, and handling challenging questions with confidence. Through practical exercises, students will refine their communication techniques, focusing on maximizing their impact in high-stakes situations such as job interviews, thesis defenses (B.S., M.S., Ph.D.), scientific meetings, and professional presentations. This course prepares students to craft well-structured talks, anticipate audience questions, and adapt their presentation style to different professional contexts.
Teaching methods	Teaching methods will include traditional lectures, providing direct instruction, along with interactive discussions and practical



exercises to apply the concepts learned. The course includes a mini-workshop where students will deliver their talks, which will be followed by constructive feedback from the instructor and peers. Additional teaching methods include:

- Group work to encourage collaboration and peer feedback on presentation techniques.
- Interactive discussions to explore effective communication strategies.
- Plenary sessions to analyze and discuss different presentation styles and audience engagement techniques.
- Constructive feedback sessions aimed at refining delivery and content organization.

This approach is designed to foster both individual improvement and collaborative learning, enabling students to refine their skills in delivering impactful presentations.

Course on transversal, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary skills

☒ Yes

☐ No

Available for PhD students from other courses

☒ Yes

☐ No

The course is open to everyone, with priority given to PhD students from the PhD Course in Geosciences. External PhD students who wish to enroll should send an email to dottorato.geoscienze@unipd.it and will be contacted if spots become available.

Prerequisites

(not mandatory)

Examination methods
(in applicable)

Candidates must give a talk on a research topic that will be commented and evaluated by the instructor and also reviewed by fellow PhD students in a peer-review process.

Suggested readings

Slides prepared by the teacher plus papers on the topic.

Additional information

Peer review by fellow PhD students involves completing a structured evaluation form with specific questions addressing key aspects of the presentation. These include whether the speaker effectively motivated the topic and engaged the audience, the quality and clarity of diagrams and figures, the appropriateness of font size and color, and the speaker's comfort, delivery style, and clarity.
