

Bożena KOTARSKA-LEWANDOWSKA

Politechnika Gdańska

Wydział Inżynierii Łądowej i Środowiska

ul. Narutowicza 11/12

tel./ fax: 58 347 55 17

80-233 Gdańsk

e-mail: bozena.kotarska-lewandowska@wilis.pg.gda.pl

EXTENDED COURSE OF DESCRIPTIVE GEOMETRY IN ENGLISH

The transformation of the educational system and adaptation to European standards, resulted in the fact that many universities of technology in Poland offer studies in English. In recent years, foreign students coming to Poland were usually students of higher semesters, hence they had already completed Descriptive Geometry or Engineering Graphic courses before they came. However, permanently growing offer of undergraduate studies for foreign students, as well as demand for studies in English for native students, allows to predict, that they will become common in short time. Teaching Descriptive Geometry or Engineering Graphics in English language will soon become standard.

Due to a year-stay of foreign students from Spain at Civil and Environmental Protection Faculty in Gdansk University of Technology in academic year 2010/2011, there was a need to develop an appropriate Descriptive Geometry course. According to students expectations, the course should include extended content and be conducted in English. The preparations for the course covered the selection of topics of lectures and translation of the course-content into English. Despite prior knowledge of English language and English vocabulary for geometry, translation of lectures and conducting classes proved to be a challenge.

The article presents remarks arising from practical experience in preparing the translation and work with the students in class. While searching for the appropriate scientific terms of strict geometric construction, it appeared essential to use the English-language literature, including a variety of websites. Unfortunately, English textbooks on Descriptive Geometry, available in the library of Gdansk University of Technology are volumes from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, however there have been no contemporary works. The variety of records used in geometric constructions in different countries is also related to historical circumstances.