**Course design :**

**The nature of the ESP course design :**

Course design refers to the planning and structuring of a course to achieve the needed goals. It is the outcome of a number of elements ; the results of the needs analysis, the course designer’s approach to syllabus and methodology, and existing materials ( Robinson :1991). In the same vein, Hutchinson and Waters ( 1987 :65) have defined a course as **«** **an intergrated series of teaching-learning experiences, whose ultimate aim is to lead the learners to a particular state of knowledge »**

Thus, the ESP course takes into consideration not only the subject area of the learners, but also the lexical, semantic and structural aspects of the language characteristics of that specialized area.

From the above definition, we may understand that the aim of the ESP courses are to prepare the learners in accordance with specific skills and vocabulary needed in their own field in order to be able to communicate effectively in the target situation. To achieve these aims, a number of parameters have to be taken into consideration namely :

The identification of needs

Syllabus design

Materials production

Evaluation and assessment