



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### First Foreign Language - English - 2

1920-1-E1802M129-T2

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#### Learning objectives

The course aims to offer students clear explanations of grammar, together with a wide variety of activities and exercises. The objective is to strengthen the skills of grammar and vocabulary of the student and lead to a good level of communicative interaction in an international business environment. Each lesson focuses not only on the consolidation of basic grammatical structures, but also gradually introduces specific topics of an international economic nature, which present and develop the specialized vocabulary in authentic contexts, commercial and corporate. All units help the development of language functions in specific situations focusing on the register and stylistic correctness.

\*\* Passing the final test is equivalent to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages ??/ Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

#### Contents

The course will provide the linguistic tools which are useful to interact in a changing economic and international business world. It offers a thematic approach to the acquisition of reading strategies in a specialized field such as economics, developing students' capacity to understand the written word in order to allow users to deal with authentic materials on their own. Who reads, in fact, must learn to manage the particularly rich and varied vocabulary that goes to characterize the different specialist languages ??in the field of economics. Grammar skills are consolidated and developed as are the communication skills which are useful to interact in a business environment and international business. The themes explored in the readings are taken from articles from newspapers and magazines such as "The Financial Times", "Times", "The Economist", "The Guardian".

Students will learn to:

- Know the structures of the language and to be able to deal with situations of communication in the commercial

field and possess the necessary vocabulary to express themselves in social, business and trade situations.

- Write and read business communications with ease.
- Deepen their language skills at intermediate-advanced level, until they become autonomous and effective in the use of business language.
- learn vocabulary critical to business through the use of the textbook. Speaking about trade; duties and responsibilities. Description of premises: structure and operations.
- The course aims to develop the written language by practicing various reading strategies for coping with texts by subject specialists in the economic sphere. It aims to make the student acquire a solid foundation focused on linguistic jargons, relevant to the disciplines studied in the graduate program of Economics.

## Detailed program

The participation of Italy in the context of world trade requires on the part of those who work in the business world a knowledge of languages and foreign cultures. Students are therefore expected to prepare very seriously in the linguistic field, dedicating the time necessary for the acquisition and / or improvement of skills of the English language. The course is designed to provide students with the language skills necessary to operate in the international world of business. The course offers a thematic approach to the acquisition of reading strategies in a specialized field such as the economy, developing the students capabilities in the written language in order to allow them to deal with authentic materials on their own. Who reads, in fact, must learn to manage the particularly rich and varied vocabulary that goes to characterize the different specialist languages in the field of economics.

### Communication skills

Attention will be given to functional language communicative; exchange of verbal and written information, negotiating meetings, description of procedures and products, socializing with clients. It then focuses on the specific language of the business world: sales, IT, finance, investment, "international business" and market development. It uses material taken from authentic and updated publications in print (newspapers, weeklies, magazines and the internet).

### Learning skills

The course offers the dual purpose of the revision and consolidation of basic language skills by putting them in the context of languages that characterize the various speciality areas of 'Business. English'.

## Prerequisites

A required level A2/B1 to frequent the course. For students who have not yet reached that level, the English Department offers basic courses and then allow students to take the English 1 course, the following academic year.

## Teaching methods

Lectures

## Assessment methods

Assessment methods:

There are two ways to be accepted to sit for the final exam of English 1 (6 university credits), 'English for economics and business'

1 To be in possession of an international certificate recognised by the English language section of the Economics and Statistics School. A copy of which must be given to the course coordinator 2 weeks before the exam.

2 To pass the computer test.

**The exam consists of two parts:**

### 1 The computer test

- There are 45 questions and the test lasts 35 minutes.
- The student must have at least 25 correct answers.
- It will not be possible to sit for the final English language exam; 'English for economics and business', without having passed this computer test, or without being in possession of an international certificate.
- There are 6 opportunities to sit the computer test: *January, February, April, June, July, September*
- The result of the computer test is valid for 3 subsequent exams.

### 2 The final exam. English 1 ( 6 credits); 'English for economics and business'.

The exam consists of a written test: a reading comprehension of a text. There are 50 questions and the exam lasts 90 minutes.

\* The use of either bilingual or monolingual dictionary is not allowed.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

'Working with Economic and Business English'; Robin Anderson. Maggioli Editore. ISBN: 978-88-387-6578-2

Dispensa: 'New Images of Italy' P. Kennan, P. Tornaghi. Arcipelago Edizioni.

## **Semester**

The English language 1 course, for 6 university credits, is offered on both semestres.

The course is divided into two parts:

- a) English language grammar and verb forms (teaching support) for 2 hours per week.
- b) English reading skills – ‘English for economics and business’ course, 4 hours a week.

## **Teaching language**

English

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