



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### First Foreign Language - English - 1

1920-1-E1802M129-T1

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#### Learning objectives

The course will provide the linguistic tools which are useful to interact in a changing economic and international business world.

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 programme of Economics.
- **The grammar and communicative contents of the course correspond to a B2 proficiency level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). With grammatical, communicative and socio-cultural contents.**

#### Contents

The course will provide the linguistic tools which are useful to interact in a changing economic and international business world.

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 administrative, 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 programme of Economics.
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## Detailed program

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.

### Topics

Competitive advantage

The beginnings of capitalism

Economics and happiness

Ageing Europe

Europe's labour problems

Inflation

Italy and the euro

Deflation

Applying for a job

Economic growth

Business and cultural diversity

What are the costs and benefits of globalisation?

Marketing

Why Italy's women are out of work?

### **Grammatical content**

Present tenses

Past tenses

Comparatives & superlatives

Simple & Continuous forms

Present perfect tenses

Countable & uncountable nouns

Past perfect tenses

Gerund & infinitive

Relative pronouns and clauses

Conditional forms

Passive forms

Future time

Reported speech

Modal verbs

### **Learner autonomy**

The course offers a thematic approach to the acquisition of reading strategies in a specialized field such as the

economic one, quickly activating the receptive capacity of the written language in order to allow users to deal with authentic materials autonomously. Indeed, those who read must learn to manage the particularly rich and heterogeneous vocabulary that characterizes the various specialized languages ??in the field of economic sciences.

### **Communication skills**

Attention will be given to the functional communicative language; exchange of verbal and written information, negotiate meetings, description of procedures and products, socialization with customers. It therefore focuses on the specialized language in the commercial world: sales, information technology, finance, investment, international business and market development. It uses authentic and updated material taken from printed publications (newspapers, weekly magazines, trade magazines and from the internet).

### **Learning ability**

The course aims at the twofold objective of reviewing and consolidating basic linguistic skills by inserting them in the context of the specialty languages ??that characterize the various areas of Business English.

### **Prerequisites**

No previous level of English is required.

### **Teaching methods**

Lessons in class with a lecturer and reading and grammatical exercises.

### **Assessment methods**

There are 2 ways to access the final exam;

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 computer test is held 1 week before the final exam.

### **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.

### **The final exam:**

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. 2014. Maggioli Editore. ISBN: 978-88-387-6578-2

Dispensa: 'New Images of Italy'; P. Kennan, P. Tornaghi. 2016. Arcipelago Edizioni.

### **Semester**

First

### **Teaching language**

English

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