UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

English Language - 1

2021-1-E3301M180-T1

Learning objectives

The course will provide the linguistic and lexical tools which are useful to interact in a changing economic and international business world. It aims at helping students to acquire the tools and knowledge useful to read and analyse texts about economics, politics and finance. The aim is also that to expand and strengthen grammar and vocabulary within the business field, enhance linguistic and communication skills in order to manage different situations in international contexts. Through the study of specific vocabulary, grammar and lexical functions of B1/B2 level of CEFR, through lexical and syntaxial analysis, students will be able to acquire and use a technical and specific language, develop reading strategies and use English language in specific contexts. Autonomy in reading and text analysis is one of the main aims of the course. In fact, in order to read effectively a person must learn to manage the particularly rich and varied vocabulary that characterizes the different specialist languages in the field of economics.

Contents

The course offers a thematic approach to the acquisition of reading strategies in a specialized field such as economics and business, developing students' capacity to understand the written word in order to deal with authentic materials independently. The themes explored in the readings are taken from articles from newspapers and magazines such as "The Financial Times", "Times", "The Economist", "The Guardian", "The New York Times".

Detailed program

The Course of English for Economics and Business is made up of two parts:

- Courses to support teaching, designed to provide students with the language skills necessary to operate in the international world of business and to get prepared for Part A. Topics involve:

o Present, past and future tenses

o Passive forms

o Modals

o Conditionals

o gerunds and Infinitives

o comparatives and superlatives

o reported speech

o countable/uncountable nouns

o relative clauses

- Monographic course, “English for Economics and Business” (Lingua inglese) which is designed to provide students with cultural, linguistic and lexical tools in order to take the written exam, called “Part B”. During the lessons, students will have the opportunity to improve their reading skills analysing texts about:

- Economics and business

- Types of market

- Globalization

- Types of business organizations/companies

- Strategies

- Marketing and Brands

- The business cycle

- Distribution chain/channel

- Banks

- Describing trends/graphs

- Italy and Europe/the world

Prerequisites

A required level A2/B1 to attend the course. For students who have not yet reached that level, the English Department offers basic and elementary courses.

Teaching methods

- During Covid-19 emergency period a mixed methodological approach will be adopted involving lessons in class, lessons recorded and uploaded on the e-learning pages of the teacher and some online lessons.

- Lectures using a thematic approach

Guided exercises

Assessment methods

The English exam (6 university credits) consists of two parts: Part A and Part B.

Students with an international certificate recognised by the English language section of the Economics and Statistics School can be awarded a partial or total “esonero”.

A copy of the certificate must be given to the course coordinator following the indications published on the e-learning pages of the teachers.

- Part A - the computerized test: there are 45 questions and the test lasts 35 minutes. The student must have at least 25 correct answers to pass. It will not be possible to sit for the final English language exam, ‘English for economics and business’ (Part B), without having passed this computerized test, or without being in possession of an international certificate (see the chart available on the page of the Economics and Statistics School). Part A is valid for all the following exams.

Part B: the final exam - ‘English for economics and business’ - 6 credits: the exam consists of a reading comprehension with text analysis about the topics of the course. 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 (for self-study)

Materials provided by the teacher on the e-learning page.

Semester

1st semester

Teaching language

English and Italian