UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Advanced English

2324-2-F1601M066-F1601M017M

Learning objectives

The main aim of the course, entitled " Big money: the dynamics of today's oligarchs, magnates and top-flight start-uppers" is to answer student need for a reenforced command of the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening in business and financial contexts.

Contents

The course is primarily based a series of articles taken from a variety of major English newspapers, journals and specialized publications with the addition of recorded interviews and analyses, all dealing with some aspect of the surge of big money characterizing the last half century. There will also be an analytical study of specific language features adopted in financial contexts.

Detailed program

The programme looks back from 2020, the year which marked the largest increase in multi-millionaire and billionaire wealth share, to investigate the big money phenomenon, from Silicon Valley successes, Russian oligarchs and the various mixtures of wealth and power, wealth and politics that characterize the period. The figures examined include the founders of Google, Microsoft and Apple, relocated Russians like Berezovsky and Abramovich as well as high-flyers like Elon Musk. Listening practice will be supplied by excerpts taken from YouTube. Linguistic backup comes in the form of short exercises dealing with areas of corporate finance, like venture capital, futures and derivatives.

Prerequisites

Pass in English Language at first degree level or equivalent.

Teaching methods

Lectures

Assessment methods

The written paper is accessed online. It consists of an unseen passage of the typology studied in class with a variety of exercises, both linguistic and interpretative. Candidates are expected to have acquired a working knowledge of reading strategies, a familiarity with the key lexical items and themes explored in the course texts. The mark for the written will be confirmed by a short oral. The papers are graded on a curve, with a final mark out of thirty. All the material used in class is uploaded on the e-learning platform.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Backup material can be accessed via: The British Council LearnEnglish
Online Listening and Reading: Sky Breaking News UK; BBC 6 Minute English; YouTube; The Guardian videos and articles

Semester

Second

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS