UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

English

2627-1-E2007P001

Learning area

Learning Area 1: Study of the means whereby communication takes place

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Consolidation of general English
- Introduction to academic English, with special regard for Deaf Sudies materials
- Aspects of pragmatics in English: communicative functions and their realisation
- Analysis of English language structures

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

- Ability to read and understand various types of texts in English at an intermediate level (to be defined according to the students' initial skills), including academic texts.
- Ability to produce short descriptive, expository and argumentative texts in English on topical issues dealt with in class; the level will be defined according to the students' initial skills.
- Ability to interact in writing in English, in synchronous and asynchronous mode, using digital tools also on deaf-related topics.

Ability to communicate

- Ability to communicate, primarily in writing, the acquired content in a clear and linguistically accurate manner.

Learning skills

- Ability to continue autonomous learning of the English language after classes are finished.

Contents

The course develops the knowledge and skills outlined above the introduction of basic/intermediate vocabulary,. including academic vocabulary, in predominantly written form through reading and viewing relevant videos (with English transcription). Parallel to the introduction of basic vocabulary and syntax for communicative purposes, principles of linguistic analysis aimed at highlighting typological differences between English and Italian and introducing the basic vocabulary of academic communication will be provided. This knowledge will be embodied in the practice of communicative skills in realistic situations, academic reading practice, and in the development of a forum in English on deaf-related topics. The latter skill will be developed in the second part of the course.

Detailed program

• General English vocabulary (basic-intermediate level)
• Academic lexicon, with special regard for Deaf Studies
• English sentence syntax (basic-intermediate level)
• Semantic and pragmatic aspects of English (basic-intermediate level)
• Communicative functions
• Text types (basic-intermediate level) and their use in everyday communication
• Principles of contrastive analysis and analysis of multimoldal texts/materials, with special regard for accessibility aspects
• Exercises in comprehension and textual production of mainly written texts.

Prerequisites

Prior knowledge of English language level B1 is desirable. Since a class with differentiated skills is expected, activities will be adjusted to the students' skills as assessed at the beginning of the course, bearing in mind that at the end of the course all students will have acquired the same skills.

For the academic year 2026/2027 it will not be possible to select this course as a single-course entry.
Exam not selectable from the study plan by students not enrolled in Interpretariato e Traduzione in Lingua dei Segni Italiana (LIS) e Lingua dei Segni Italiana Tattile (LIST) *(Italian Sign Language (LIS) and Tactile Italian Sign Language (LIST) Interpretation)*.

Teaching methods

Teaching will be both lecture- and seminar based. In the course of lectures (30% of total classes), both theoretical and applied topics will be introduced. These introduction will be followed by group work that will focus on the reading/viewing and production of texts, accompanied by textual analysis exercises, including contrastive analysis. Group work will contribute to learning assessment.

Assessment methods

Assessment will be carried out through the administration of a written test that will consist of a reading comprehension test and/or textual production. Students will be asked to be able to identify the syntactic structure of simple sentences and to translate them from English into Italian on topics covered during the course. The oral test is optional. Students who consistently follow the lectures and actively participate in group work may be exempted from part of the final examination.
The reading comprehension and textual production test is designed to ascertain the acquisition of the required level of communicative skills. The text analysis and translation test is aimed at assessing language skills in a contrastive key.
The assessment criteria are the following: adequacy of the lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic skills acquired with respect to the expected language level; completeness of comprehension of the proposed texts; communicative effectiveness in written production; adequacy of the translation of the proposed sentences.

Evaluation grid
18: barely sufficient production and comprehension skills, and command of the grammar and vocabulary;

19-22: sufficient command of core linguistic structures, with some inaccuracies in production and comprehension;

23-26: fair linguistic competence with occasional errors in fluency or accuracy;

27-30: solid language proficiency, good command of complex structures;

30 e lode (with honors): fully comprehensive proficiency, complete mastery of the language, and excellent, natural vocabulary range.

Students have the opportunity to take a mid-term test (covering the first section of the course program) toward the end of the semester. Those who do not wish to take the partial exam may sit for a single comprehensive exam during the official exam periods.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Detailed information about the teaching materials will be published on the e-learning page associated with the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES