**English Language and Literature (Year 1, Three-Year Course Students)**

## Prof. Franco Lonati

# English Language Practical Classes (Year 1, First-Level Degree)

## Chiara Canova, Costanza Peverati, Francesca Poli, Jenovia Smith, Angela Vasilovici

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to explore key topics in the literary and cultural history of Great Britain through the presentation of various representative texts. The course will introduce students to a more mature and conscious approach to studying some of the themes, authors and works that have contributed to the development of English literature and, consequently, English-speaking culture. By the end of the course, students must be able to make connections between the literary works and the various historical periods covered. They must be able to comment on and analyse – in terms of form and content – the works addressed and will have acquired university-level expressive skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two modules.

Module 1: History of English literature.

The module aims to tackle the main movements and protagonists of English literature from its origins up at the end of the 17th century, through the study of the life and works of the authors and with the use of literary anthologies. There will be a particular focus on the figures of Chaucer, Wyatt, Surrey, Spencer, Sidney, Donne and Milton.

Module 2: Elizabethan theatre and Shakespeare

The module introduces students to the study of the main dramatist of English literature. After a brief history of English theatre from its origins up to the Elizabethan age, the module focuses on the figure of Shakespeare and on one of his major tragedies, *Macbeth*, which will be analysed through a series of close-reading exercises and by reflecting on the adaptation strategies used in major cinematographic versions (Welles, Polanski, Kurzel, Coen).

***READING LIST***

Module 1:

A. Cattaneo, *A Short History of English Literature,* Vol. 1, Mondadori Università, Milan 2019 [2011].

The texts for the literary anthology will be provided in the form of a course pack at the beginning of the course. Non-attending students will be provided with an additional course pack via Blackboard.

Module 2:

W. Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, Sandra Clark and Pamela Mason eds., The Arden Shakespeare – Bloomsbury, London 2015 [1997].

Details of the critical reading will be provided during the course and provided in a course pack.

During the year, students will also be required to read key works and assessed on their knowledge of these during the exam. This year's texts are:

O. Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (any English edition)

G. Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (any English edition).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, possibly supplemented with practical classes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination in Italian or (at student's request) in English. Based on open questions, the exam is designed to assess knowledge acquired during the course and to evaluate historical, critical, language and expressive skills. It includes: 1) reading aloud and translation: students must demonstrate that they have learned the vocabulary and linguistic structures of the texts on the syllabus and must learn to describe the specific forms from the point of view of the literary genre in question; 2) in-depth analysis, interpretation, critical commentary and historical, historical-literary contextualisation of the texts on the syllabus.

The final mark (out of 30) is calculated as follows: 50% for the first point and 50% for the second point: to pass the exam, students must pass (18/30) both parts. Important assessment criteria include language skills, clarity of expression, ability to structure effective arguments and make links with other authors and works.

For students on a year-long course (LLS, LCM and ELT): the weighted average of the marks for the interim tests in written and spoken English will contribute to the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

***Notes***

The course lasts *one year* and is designed for students enrolled in the first year of the Linguistics degree programme whose study plan includes the English Language and Literature course (i.e. the following profiles: Foreign Languages and Literatures, Language Specialist for Tourism and Languages, Communication and Media).

The course is also intended for Linguistics undergraduate students on the Business Language Specialist and International Relations Language Specialist profiles (Esperto linguistico d’Impresa; Esperto linguistico per le Relazioni Internazionali) to take as a *semester-long course*. The course syllabus for these students is the same as the syllabus for Semester 1.

***Prerequisites***

The module has no prerequisites in terms of content. However, students are expected to be interested in and demonstrate intellectual curiosity about the subject and to have at least moderate knowledge of English.

*Student reception*

Student reception will take place in the teacher’s office or online on Microsoft Teams by appointment. Please send a request by email.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

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***COURSE AIMS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course aims to consolidate the students’ knowledge and practical skills in the areas of grammar, reading, writing and spelling, oral communication and pronunciation. Students should reach a level that is comparable to B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students are expected to

* be able to demonstrate comprehension of a passage read aloud and the ability to transcribe it correctly;
* show knowledge of the grammatical structures and phraseology of English and areas of lexis contained in the course books at the expected level;
* be able to compose a text correctly in English at the expected level, showing knowledge of the norms of written English;
* be able to translate sentences from Italian to English demonstrating knowledge of grammatical structures and lexis taught at the expected level;
* be able to decode the International Phonetic Alphabet and pronounce the vowels and consonants of English correctly, regardless of the variety they identify with (e.g. British or American English);
* be able to converse in English, asking and answering questions at the expected level about the prescribed texts for the exams.

Transferable skills:

Students are expected to be able to

* have familiarity with the learning platform Blackboard, and its main functions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

- Consolidation and development of grammatical and phraseological knowledge of English

- Speaking skills and listening comprehension

- Writing skills with attention to formal and informal emails

- Reading comprehension skills

- Translation skills

- Practising the correct transcription of a text that is dictated

- Practising decoding the International Phonetic Alphabet correctly

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

The following materials are **compulsory** for all groups:

Paul Dummett, John Hughes, Helen Stephenson *Life-Upper Intermediate* 2nd Edition, National Geographic Learning. ISBN 9781337286121

Grammar

Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage* 4th Edition. Oxford University Press

Dispensa *First year Grammar Exercises* available at Centro Copie.

Translation

Dispensa *Italian-English* *Translation and Vocabulary* available on Blackboard and at Centro Copie.

Pronunciation

Dispensa *Pronunciation* available on Blackboard.

It is recommended that students one of the following bilingual and monolingual dictionary that will last throughout their degree course. Any of the following are appropriate, in their latest edition:

*Il Sansoni Italiano-Inglese*, Sansoni.

*Grande Dizionario Hoepli Inglese con CD-ROM*, Hoepli.

*Il Dizionario Inglese Italiano Ragazzini*, Zanichelli.

*Oxford Paravia. Il dizionario inglese-italiano, italiano-inglese*.

Recommended monolingual dictionaries (latest editions):

*Advanced Dictionary*, Collins Cobuild.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Cambridge.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford.

*English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, Macmillan.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lessons are interactive, requiring pair work and group work. Self-study is fundamental, using the course books and extra materials made available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students take a written exam which tests listening comprehension, spelling and punctuation through a dictation exercies, knowledge of grammar at the expected level, reading and writing skills, and translation into English. There is also an oral exam conducted in English and students are assessed on their ability to communicate at the expected level. The assessment focuses on correct pronunciation, effective communication skills, the ability to use appropriate lexis as well as students’ knowledge of the content of the readings required. The final mark out of 30 points reflect the level reached based on the performance in the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is highly recommended to attend lessons, which begin on 19th September 2022. Students are placed in groups after the placement test/VPI and should stay in their groups throughout the year.

The first two weeks are intensive with 10 hours of language lessons per week. From 4th October for 10 weeks, there are 6 hours of lessons per week.

The course is taught in English. Students must enrol in the 2022-23 courses on the Blackboard platform to be able to access the course contents and practice materials.

Students must pass the written and oral language exams **before** taking their first year phonology exam.

1. The texts indicated in the bibliography can be purchased from the University bookstores; they can also be purchased from other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)