# Advanced English Toefl

## Prof. Maria Grazia Cavallaro

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

*The aim of the course is to enable students to reach a confident B2 level in Advanced English, which means they can*:

acquire a stronger, more confident level of English needed in order to actively participate in formal discussions on various issues. Through attendance and class participation, students will reach a higher level of English and gain command of fluency which will enable them to successfully succeed in future job interviews. The course will also enable students to be effective in professional situations. Students may also try independently to successfully pass the iBT Toefl exam, as the course prepares for this exam, but it is NOT a graduation requirement. The course offers 8 credits.

The attended learning outcomes: Knowledge and understanding: At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

– recognize the elements of effective communication;

– identify the relationship between the purpose of the communication and the soft skills used;

– communicate using the skills learned

Applying knowledge and understanding: At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

– develop clearer, more effective spoken messages;

– use their soft skills in English to make it easier to achieve their objectives. Moreover, by attending the course (with active participation), students will have acquired the ability to use English appropriately and effectively in diverse professional contexts by successfully mastering their use of English as well as in communicating with various cultures. Lastly, students will acquire a good level of knowledge of grammar and syntax as well as a fairly wide vocabulary that will enable them to be independent uses of English and deal with non-familiar and quite complex topics.

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

M.G. Cavallaro, *Down to Business and Legal English,* CEA Edizioni. [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/cavallaro-m-grazia/down-to-business-and-legal-english-9788808185402-182102.html)

M.G. Cavallaro, *Dispensa materiale per il corso di advanced English toefl,* in vendita: Normadec.

Bob Dignen; Communicating Across Cultures, Cambridge University press isbn: 978-0-521-18198-3 [*Acquista da VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/dignen-bob/communicating-across-cultures-9780521181983-557012.html)

*Recommended but not for class*:

*The Official Guide to the New Toefl iBT*, Princeton Review (any edition), cd rom with authentic Toefl test sections.

P. Vittorio, *Test Builder for TOEFL iBT, Tests that Teach*, Macmillan Test-builders.

***TEACHING METHOD***

– Face-to-face communication;

– Speaking exercises in class;

– Interactive class activities (role playing, simulations).

The course focuses on correct English usage and idiomatic expressions along with correct register; synonyms and antonyms. Much emphasis is placed on speaking: role palys: being assertive, negotiating, developing ideas and answers, etc. The ENTIRE course is based on speaking and in-class participation and role-plays, therefor it is essential that students take an active part in the lesson in order to up-grade their level of English.

***ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA***

With the purpose of measuring the acquisition of the above-mentioned learning outsomces, the student assessment is based on : class participation (75% attendance with active participation in class required for attending students), final speaking grade (100%) of the final grade. Non-attending students need to demonstrate their ability to use the communications skills used by attending students. Students will be required to take the university exam at the end of the course, speaking and no written exam. Students must pass with minimum 18/30. Students will be assessed accordingly to the work and participation carried out in class along with the final speaking exam, meaning that class participation is an integral part of the final university mark. Students will also be tested during the final mark on their proper use of English and the ability to produce in spoken form what has been performed in class all at a B2-C1 minimum level.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Required entrance level: a good competence of the English language, possibly an upper-intermediate-advanced level (B2-C1) will be necessary in view of the final exam requirements.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

*Contact details*

Prof. MG Cavallaro receives students upon appointment via email.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)