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**English language II (Language, morphosyntax and lexis)**

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*Gr. A-K: Prof. Sonia Rachele Piotti*

### **COURSE AIMS and INTENDED learning outcomes**

*Course Aims*

The aim of this course is to provide undergraduate students of English with a basic introduction to the morphology, lexis, grammar, lexical semantics, syntax, and lexicography of Present-day English. Students are expected to become aware of the language they hear and read in a variety of spoken and written contexts, and how the language is changing in regard to its vocabulary.

*Expected Learning outcomes*

Knowledge and understanding

Students completing the course are expected to have acquired the following:

- an understanding of the importance of the origins and later development of English to its present-day status

- an understanding of the history of English vocabulary, the formation of its words and their grammatical modification

- an appreciation and awareness of the distinguishing features of English compared to other European languages

- a knowledge and comprehension of the phrase structure grammar of English

-an understanding of processes of lexical change and innovation in Present-day English

- an appreciation of the importance of dictionaries to English learners.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Students are expected to be able to identify and analyse the English language with regard to the core areas detailed in the Course Contents section.

Transferable skills

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their ability to analyse language and to show critical thinking skills through discussion.

***COURSE CONTENTS***

**1. English morphology and lexis**:

\* English origins and its later development

\* The role of language contact and borrowing in the history of English vocabulary expansion

\* The internal structure of English words

-Morphs, morphemes, allomorphs

-Morphological realisation rules

\* Lexical change and innovation in Present-day English

-Word-formation processes

-Semantic shift

\* Multi-word units and idioms

**2. Grammatical categories and word classes in English**

\* Nominal grammatical categories

\* Verbal grammatical categories

\* Word classes

**3. Lexical semantics**

\* Word meaning and relationships between words

-Basic semantic relationships

-Structural semantics

\* Lexical change and innovation in Present-day English through semantic shift

**4. English syntax**

\* The phrase structure grammar of English

-Noun Phrase

-Adjective phrase

-Adverb phrase

-Prepositional phrase

-Verb phrase

**5. English lexicography**

\* Dictionaries of English: development and features

\* Learners’ Dictionaries of English

***READING LIST***

Laurel J. Brinton-Donna M. Brinton, *The Linguistic Structure of Modern English*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 2010. [Ch. 4 (79-90; 94-112); Ch. 5 (up to p. 132); Ch. 6 (pp. 143-155); Ch. 7; Ch. 8 (220-225)] (Book available from UCSC Library Catalogue)

Donka Minkova-Robert Stockwell, “English Words”, in B. Aarts- A. McMahon (eds), *The Handbook of English Linguistics*, Blackwell Publishing, 2006, pp. 461-482. (Book available from UCSC Library Catalogue)

Shigeru Yamada,“Monolingual Learners’ Dictionaries-Where Now?”, in H. Jackson (ed.), *The Bloomsbury Companion to Lexicography*, Bloomsbury, 2013, pp. 188-212.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching method includes technology-enhanced lectures, using print and visual materials and mobile learning tools, pair and/or group work, individual analysis and observation tasks, self-study.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For the exam, all students have to:

1. take a partial written test;
2. submit an assignment on dictionaries.
3. Partial written test

Students may choose between two options:

* taking the test *in itinere* at the end of the course (on a date set in May 2023 exam session; the test will be valid for one academic year);
* taking the test on any official exam date, once they have passed written and oral language exams (prove intermedie).

Whichever option students choose (1 or 2), the written test will be administered through Blackboard. In the test, all students must be able to identify and explain the features of the English language detailed in the Course Contents section (topics 1-4) (cfr. Brinton-Brinton; Minkova-Stockwell; lessons), using appropriate terminology.

1. Assignment on dictionaries

The assignment must be submitted via Blackboard and be due by a date (one date per session) which will be set and communicated during the course.

For this part of the exam, all students are required to describe the structures and features of select monolingual learner’s dictionaries of English detailed in the Course contents section (topic 5) (cfr. Yamada and lessons).

If students choose option b) for the partial written test, the test and the dictionary assignment can be taken and submitted, respectively, in different exam sessions within the academic year, i.e. not later than the February 2024 exam session.

The final mark for Lingua Inglese 2 (12 CFU) reflects the student’s:

-written and oral communication skills as shown in the weighted average (media ponderata) of the English language exams (prove intermedie)

b. score on the partial written test

c. score on the dictionary assignment

d. knowledge of course contents.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must have passed the written and the oral language *prove intermedie* of the second year before they attempt Lingua, Morfosintassi e Lessico. For Erasmus students, the course in Lingua, Morfosintassi e Lessico (30 hours) is worth 5 CFU.

All students must enrol in the course on Blackboard.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

Students wishing to talk to Prof. Piotti should go to her office hours as indicated on her UC webpage. Office hours are weekly in term time and take place in her office in Milan (as indicated on Blackboard).

*Gr. L-Z: Prof. Pierfranca Forchini*

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

The aim of this course is to provide undergraduate students of English with a basic introduction to the morphology, lexico-grammar and lexicography of English. Students are expected to discover and learn the lexical strategies adopted in a variety of contexts, such as online news and social media texts, using digital linguistic tools.

*Knowledge and understanding*

Students completing the course are expected to acquire an understanding of: the word-formation processes of English; sense relations; the structure of phrases, clauses, sentences and texts; the importance of dictionaries.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

Students are expected to be able to identify and analyze the English language with regard to the core areas detailed in the Course Contents section.

*Transferable skills*

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their ability to analyze language and to use a dictionary.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Methodologies:

– corpus linguistics; prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics.

Topics:

– morphology;

– word, lexeme, word-form;

– morphs, morphemes, allomorphs;

– word-formation.

Lexico-grammar:

– syntagmatic word associations;

– multi-word units;

– collocations and idioms.

Semantics:

– paradigmatic word associations;

– metaphor;

– metonymy.

Syntax:

– word classes;

– phrases and clauses;

– sentence elements and functions;

– word order.

Lexicography:

– dictionaries (e.g. monolingual, bilingual, online dictionaries, thesauruses)

***READING LIST***

V. Pulcini (ed.), *A Handbook of Present-day English,* Carocci, Roma, 2009.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching method includes technology-enhanced lectures, using audio-visual materials and mobile learning tools, pair and/or group work, peer-to-peer learning, individual analysis and observation tasks, self-study.

If the Covid-19 health emergency does not allow teaching in class, teaching online will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students may choose between a) taking a partial written test *in itinere* (valid for one academic year) and finishing with an oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams (*prove intermedie*), or b) taking only a final oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams (*prove intermedie*).

If students choose option a), they will take a partial written test *in itinere* (at the end of the course) on the contents of the Reading List, and then an oral exam.

At the oral exam for Morphosyntax and Lexis, students are required to show knowledge of the course contents

– by reporting and commenting on the topics and methodologies listed in the Course Contents section;

– by identifying and explaining the features of language detailed in the Course Contents section, using appropriate terminology.

The final mark reflects the student’s:

a. written and oral communication skills as shown in the weighted average (*media ponderata*) of the language exams (*prove intermedie*);

b. score on the interim test (if they choose option a);

c. knowledge of the course contents and ability to consult a dictionary.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must have finished the English exams of the first year (i.e. prova intermedia scritta e orale e fonologia) before they attempt any exams in the second year. They must also pass the written and oral language tests (*prove intermedie*) before they take the Morphosyntax and Lexis exam. For Erasmus students, the course in Language, Morphosyntax and Lexis (30 hours) is worth 5 CFU.

All students must enroll in the course on Blackboard.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester, Prof. Forchini is available to talk to students by email arrangement.

## **English Language Practical Classes (Year 2, Three-year Course students)**

## L. Belloni, P. Biancolini, F. Bovone, L. Fabri, A. Fottrell, J. Hayne, l. Hughes, D. Lowry, M. Porro, P. Prostitis, J. Rock, G. Taglialatela, J. Villis, L. Williams

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

The second year English language course concentrates on consolidating grammatical knowledge and broadening students’ vocabulary, as well as developing writing skills, concentrating particularly on producing a good summary. Translation skills and speaking skills are also developed. Students should reach level B2.2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

– demonstrate comprehension of a passage read aloud in various accents of English and the ability to transcribe the passage correctly in the Roman alphabet;

– demonstrate knowledge of the grammatical structures of English and areas of vocabulary contained in the course books by writing correct answers to comprehension questions referring to a written passage;

– summarise a written text correctly in English, showing knowledge of the grammatical and lexical cohesive devices of written English;

– translate a text from Italian to English demonstrating knowledge of grammatical structures and lexis taught at B2.2 level;

– prove their oral and aural comprehension skills at a B2.2 level.

*Transferable skills*

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their communicative skills by participating actively in tasks in the classroom and at home.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Consolidation of grammatical knowledge and syntactic structures at B2.2 level

– Broadening vocabulary, concentrating on collocations, phrasal verbs and idioms

– Reading comprehension skills (e.g. skimming and scanning) of complex authentic written texts, identifying the key points, and summary writing

– Translation skills

– Practising the correct transcription of a text read aloud

– Speaking and listening skills

***READING LIST***

Compulsory texts for all classes

P. Dummett-J. Hughes-H. Stephenson, *Life Advanced with DVD (Student Book, app and ebook),* Heinle, New edition.

M. Vince, *Advanced Language Practice,* Macmillan, latest edition with key.

Further materials for oral skills will be communicated via Blackboard.

Students are advised to buy the latest edition of both a monolingual and a bilingual dictionary which will last throughout their student career.

Recommended bilingual dictionaries:

*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:

*Advanced Dictionary*, Collins Cobuild.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Cambridge, 2010.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford, 2010.

*English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, Macmillan.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Students are divided by alphabetical order of their surname into 12 equally sized groups, and are required to remain in their groups for 6 hours of lessons per week.

Each group has a corresponding area on the Blackboard platform, where all information is provided about lessons and end of year tests. The lessons are interactive, requiring pair work and group work, as well as self-study at home.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students take a written test (*prova intermedia scritta*) at the end of the second term. The written language test is delivered in two parts: Paper A tests reading comprehension, writing and translation skills through written comprehension questions, summary writing, and a translation from Italian into English. A monolingual dictionary may be used for the translation exercise. Paper B tests grammatical and lexical knowledge through a variety of exercises. Listening comprehension, spelling and punctuation are tested through a dictation exercise.

At the oral test, students must be able to discuss the contents of a course pack of readings, made available via Blackboard or EduCatt. In a face-to-face conversation about the required readings, listening, speaking and interaction skills are assessed, as well as correct pronunciation, communicative fluency, grammatical accuracy, and the use of appropriate vocabulary. The marks obtained in the written and oral tests are combined into a weighted average (*media ponderata*) for language skills, in which the written mark is worth 1/3 and the oral mark 2/3. This weighted average contributes to the final mark (the written test counts for up to 1/6 and the oral test for up to 2/6 of the final mark), which is obtained after taking the exam in Morphosyntax-Lexis or Literature.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The reference point for the organisation of the English Language courses is the email address: celi.inglese[@unicatt.it](mailto:chei@unicatt.it) which is managed by the coordinator, prof. Jane Christopher. The president of the final exam commission coincides with the name of a professor of English linguistics (in the second year, Prof. Francesca Seracini), but the president cannot answer questions about language courses, groups or exams.

Students enrolled in the second year who have not passed the first year written/oral exam should attend the remedial course (*corso di recupero*), organised in both semesters.

*Biennalisti*: Students who study English as a third language, for two years, are assigned to a particular language course for four hours. They take a written language test and then complete their exam with an oral linguistics or literature exam for a total of 8 CFU. Biennalisti should enrol in the annualisti/biennalisti course on Blackboard, where they can find out more information about the exam, and write to the language courses coordinator at celi.inglese@unicatt.it.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

The language teachers are available to talk to students after lessons.