# History of the English Language

## Prof. Maria Luisa Maggioni

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

The aim of this course is to provide undergraduate students of English with an introduction to the phonological features of English, its lexico-grammar, lexicography and textuality. Students are expected to become more aware of the language they hear and read as well as to reflect on their strategies as language learners.

*Knowledge and understanding*

Students are expected to acquire an understanding of: the features of English learner’s dictionaries; paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations; textuality.

Students are expected to acquire an understanding of: the fundamental concepts of English phonetics and phonology of contemporary English; word-formation processes; the structure of phrases and word order.

*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 use a dictionary. By participating actively in the analysis and observation tasks in the classroom, they are also expected to have enhanced their communicative competence and their learning skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Lexicography:

\* learner’s dictionaries;

\* Word lists: The General Service List and the Academic Word List.

– Lexis:

\* sense relations;

\* multi-word units;

\* collocations and idioms.

– Textuality:

\* cohesive devices;

\* thematic progression;

\* context;

\* genre.

– Phonetics and Phonology:

\* vowel and consonant sounds of RP;

\* word stress;

\* connected speech;

\* sentence stress and intonation.

– Morphology:

\* word, lexeme, word-form;

\* morphs, morphemes, allomorphs;

\* word-formation.

– Syntax:

\* word classes;

\* phrases;

\* sentence elements and functions;

\* word order.

***READING LIST***

C. Cucchi-P. Forchini-C. Pavesi-S. Pireddu, *Lingua Inglese II (Morphosyntax and Lexis),* Readings, EDUCatt, Milan, 2015.

V. Pulcini, *A Handbook of Present-Day English,* Carocci Editore, Roma, 2018.

Students must possess and bring to the oral exam one of the following monolingual dictionaries, which will last throughout their student career:

*Advanced Dictionary*, Collins Cobuild, 2017.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Cambridge, 2015.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford, 2015.

*English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, Macmillan, 2017.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, 2014.

***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 health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevents teaching in the classroom, students will be notified in good time of the alternative lessons which will be provided via the online platforms used by the University.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students may choose between a) taking two partial written tests *in itinere* (one at the end of each semester) and finishing with an oral exam or b) taking only a final oral exam.

In the interim tests and at the oral exam respectively, all students are required to show knowledge of and ability to identify the features of language listed in the Course Contents section by:

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

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

– identifying the learning processes related to the acquisition of specific linguistic areas.

All students must bring a learner’s dictionary to the oral exam. They are required to describe the structure and features of the dictionary or contrast two dictionaries.

*Marking Criteria*

The final mark will be calculated taking into consideration the students’:

– knowledge of the course contents;

– ability to analyse the features detailed in the Course Content section;

– ability to describe and discuss the features of a learner’s dictionary;

– communicative competence.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

All students must enrol in the course on Blackboard.

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

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester, Prof. Maggioni’s office hours take place on a weekly basis, according to the notices both in the Dept of Scienze linguistiche e letterature straniere (Via Necchi 9, IV floor) and on her university webpages. Timetable variations will be communicated through the teacher’s webpage.