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# English Language and Literature (final year of the three-year degree)

## Prof. Arturo Cattaneo

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

The course aims to guide students – through the analysis of *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare – towards the acquisition of the ability to examine an Elizabethan play in its textual, structural, and scenic aspects, as well as provide them with a basic knowledge of the Elizabethan theatre as a literary, social, and cultural phenomena forerunning the modern *entertainment* industry.

Then, the course aims to analyse the modern rewriting of *Hamlet* made by Tom Stoppard in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, in a cultural climate that recalls the theatre of the absurd, and the post-modern rewriting of *Romeo and Juliet* for the screen, always made by Stoppard: *Shakespeare in Love* (a screenplay that has similarly become a play for the theatre): the aim is to show the ductility and adaptability of the new media of theatre texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Elizabethan theatre as a cultural and social phenomena – Theatre buildings, companies, actors, audience, the relationship between ‘power’ and theatre – Revenge tragedy in the Elizabethan theatre –*Hamlet*: the publication date, the printed copies, the sources - The structure of the work and the time scheme – The characters and their dramatic relationships – Hamlet's madness – The relationship of the son with his father/fathers and mother – The psycho-analytical interpretations of *Hamlet* – The suicide: Hamlet and Ophelia – The staged murder: the ‘theatre within the theatre’ – *Hamlet* at the origins of modern tragedy - *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*: rewriting *Hamlet* between the theatre of the absurd and the pop culture of the 1960s – Tom Stoppard's questioning of the protagonist and the dramatic action – The modern playwright between the stage and the screen: Stoppard between Shakespeare and Steven Spielberg – The post-modern contamination of *Shakespeare in Love*: how to rewrite *Romeo and Juliet* in an art-house blockbuster.

***READING LIST***

N.B. If needed, an additional reading list on the authors and the works covered by the course will be specified in class and, in any case, also on the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard.

W. Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, edited by G.R. Hibbard, Oxford World’s Classics, Oxford University Press

T. Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Faber & Faber

T. Stoppard-M. Norman, *Shakespeare in Love*, Faber & Faber

P. Bertinetti, *il teatro inglese. storia e capolavori,* Einaudi

A. Cattaneo, *A Short History of English Literature,* Mondadori, 2011 or 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will cover one semester (three hours of classes per week) and will be held in English. During classes, students will be given photocopies of texts and images difficult to find, that will be made available also on Blackboard and on the lecturer’s webpage. The course will also include the showing of significant scenes taken from the works included in the reading list.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams at the end of the course. Students will have to demonstrate that they can interpret and contextualise the texts included in the reading list. In addition, they must be able to find links between them, using their newly-acquired knowledge of the history and theory of theatre.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is primarily addressed to the students of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. Since this is an introductory course on the English theatre, starting from two crucial moments of its history, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. However, a preliminary reading of the sections focused on the Elizabethan theatre and the topics covered by the textbooks specified in the reading list is highly recommended. Students are expected to purchase the textbooks included in the reading list before the beginning of the lectures.

Attending students will have to follow the rules of conduct established by the Ethical Code of Università Cattolica, accepted at the moment of their registration, so they should read it carefully (the Code is available online).

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.

# English Language Practical Classes (Year 3, Three-year Course students)

# L. Arnò, R. Baldi, C. Bell, L. Belloni, F. Caraceni, M. Cruickshank, L. Ferrario, A. Fottrell, S. Liti, P. Prostitis, S.Riglione, J. Rock, J. Villis, L. Williams

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

The course aims to develop students’ oral and written language skills in areas useful to their professional development.

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

– demonstrate understanding of authentic, natural spoken English by answering written comprehension questions accurately;

– be able to converse in English, asking and answering questions at a C1 level about the prescribed texts for the exams;

– demonstrate understanding of a prose passage and write grammatically correct answers to comprehension questions;

– write emails or letters with various communicative functions in a style appropriate to the context, showing knowledge of the norms of written English;

– translate passages from Italian to English and from English to Italian in their area of specialisation, demonstrating accurate grammatical knowledge and appropriate stylistic and lexical knowledge.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Students work on a range of up-to-date materials prepared by their teachers specifically for their curricula, including passages for listening and reading comprehension from newspapers and online sources, and authentic texts relevant to their field of study to translate from English to Italian and vice versa.

***READING LIST***

Each teacher either posts materials on Blackboard or makes a course pack available via EduCatt. Details of the course materials are provided on Blackboard.

Useful extra reading for all curricula:

C. Taylor, *Language to Language*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

Recommended Reference English grammar:

R. Carter-M. McCarthy, *Cambridge Grammar of English*, Cambridge, 2006.

Students must possess both a monolingual and a bilingual dictionary, which they will bring to the written exam.

Recommended bilingual dictionaries:

*Il Sansoni Italiano-Inglese*, Sansoni, ultima edizione

*Grande Dizionario Hoepli Inglese con CD-ROM*, Hoepli, 2016.

*Il Dizionario Inglese Italiano Ragazzini*, Zanichelli, 2019.

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

Recommended Monolingual dictionaries:

*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***

Students are divided into courses by area of specialisation and by alphabetical order. The groups are carefully organised so as to avoid overlapping with other languages, and students must stay in their groups. The groups are as follows: Interfacoltà Scienze linguistiche per le relazioni internazionali (LRI)- Group 1 A-CRU; Group 2 L-REC, Group 3 CUR-K, Group 4 RIG-Z; Lingue per l’impresa (LI): Group 5 A-COM, Group 6 L-PRE, Group 7 CON-K, Group 8 PRI-Z; Lingua, Comunicazione e Media (LCM): Group 9 A-K; Group 10 L-Z; Lingue per il Management e per il Turismo (LMT) together with Lingue e Letterature Straniere (LLS): Group 11 A-K, Group 12 L-Z.

Students must enrol in their group on the Blackboard platform, where 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 in two parts. Part 1 consists of two translations, one from English to Italian, the other from Italian to English. In Part 1, both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries may be used, but not special dictionaries (such as exam dictionaries, legal or business dictionaries, collocations dictionaries). Part 2 consists of a reading comprehension with questions, a writing exercise (such as a job application letter or email), and a listening comprehension with a gap-fill exercise. Dictionaries may not be used in Part 2.

At the oral exam, students must be able to discuss readings selected during the year. Listening and speaking skills are assessed in a face-to-face conversation, together with pronunciation, communicative fluency, grammatical accuracy, use of appropriate vocabulary and the ability to interact. Students must demonstrate that they know the contents of the readings and are able to discuss related themes.

The marks obtained in the written and oral tests are combined into a weighted average (*media ponderata*) where the written mark is worth 1/3 and the oral mark 2/3. This weighted average contributes to the final mark, which is obtained after taking the exam in professional communication or literature. The written mark counts for up to 1/6 and the oral mark up to 2/6 of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The reference point for the organisation of the English Language courses is the email address: celi.inglese@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 third year, Prof. Costanza Cucchi), but the president cannot answer questions about language courses, groups or exams.

It is important that students remain in the course assigned to them so as to ensure evenly-sized language courses.

Any students who do not succeed in passing their written exams are required to attend the remedial course (*corso di recupero*) in the following semester.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

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

# American English Language Classes – American English and culture

## Coordinator: Prof. Pierfranca Forchini

## Teacher: Michael Bergstein

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

The course in American English and Culture is an elective course for third year BA students and for the students of the Master’s Degree in Language Science (first and second year) (all curricula).

The aim of each module (20 hours, 2 hour-session per week) is to provide students with the opportunity to get to know and deepen their knowledge of American language and culture.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students are expected to have gained knowledge through the use of written and audio-visual tools of the language and culture of the United States of America (for example, important historical moments and documents, geography, specific cultural values of the American system, music, politics, school and university education systems, among others).

*Transferable skills*

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

***READING LIST***

P. Forchini, *Focus on* *American English & Culture*,EDUCatt, Milan, 2010, 2nd ed.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Each module is worth 2 CFU and attendance is compulsory.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are expected to participate actively in the classrooms and evaluation assesses their participation, as well as their performance of a brief oral presentation on topics covered at the end of the module.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course (worth 2 CFUs) can be attended only by students who are in the third year of the *Laurea Triennale* or in the *Laurea Magistrale*. It does not prepare students for the *prove intermedie scritte*, but is an extra course which is particularly useful for oral skills and for those interested in all aspects of language and culture of the United States. Students must enroll in the course by sending an email to Prof. Pierfranca Forchini at american.english@unicatt.it. The places on the course are limited.