# Specialist English (Degree inClinical psychology and health promotion: person, family relationships and community)

## Prof. Maria Grazia Borsalino

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

The course sets out to train the psychologist to study their profession with the help of the English language and communicate at the international level. Therefore, the course will develop the student’s abilities in:

– the oral and written comprehension and production of specialist psychologytexts, with special emphasis on how to express concepts and logical relationships in the English language;

– using and expanding the basic lexicon and acquisition of the specialist lexicon.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students will be able to

* understand both written and oral specialist material pertaining to psychology
* consolidate their basic range of vocabulary and learn specialist vocabulary.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students will be able to

* produce written and oral material, with particular emphasis on how to express concepts and logical relationships in English.

*Communication skills*

At the end of the course, students will be able to communicate in English in various professional contexts:

when practising in the health sector;

in written and oral communication of activity results to specialist and non-specialist interlocutors.

*Learning ability*

At the end of the course, students will be able to draw on resources, sources and dedicated websites to:

enrich their knowledge of the specialised vocabulary, structures and use of language;

use English publications to expand their personal training.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The programme will cover the following contents:

Unit 1. *Strategies for understanding and producing written and oral material*

Students will consolidate their language skills at level B2 and learn the following:

1.1 *Academic vocabulary. Word formation*

1.2 *Nouns and the words they combine with. Adjective and* *noun combinations*

1.3 *Syntactic processes*. *Noun phrases*

Unit 2. *Introduction to specialist English*

Students will acquire operative knowledge of the following aspects of Psychology:

2.1 *A definition of Psychology: origins and historical background*

2.2 *Psychology in applied settings*

2.3 *Listening and viewing*

Unit 3. *Comprehension of specialist articles*

3.1 *Psychologists at work. Journals of the BPS*

3.2 *Structured Abstracts*

3.3 *Methods of research*

Unit 4. *Introduction to expressions used in scientific narrative:*

4.1 *Focus on the text. Themes for discussion*

4.2 *Written and oral summary*

4.3 *Presentation skills*

***READING LIST***

J. Short, *English for Psychology in Higher Education Studies*, Coursebook, Garnet Education, 2010.

Further information on the reading list and materials will be indicated in class and available on Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures, guided practical assignments (individual and groups), personal practical projects. Analysis of texts, audiovisual materials and targeted websites.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A written and an oral exam in English. Both exams must be taken in the same session. A pass in the written exam will qualify the student to take the oral exam in the days immediately following the written exam.

The written exam will mainly test the student’s syntax and lexicon and text comprehension skills; the oral exam will test their knowledge of the course content and their specific communicative ability.Background materials are available on Blackboard platform.

In addition, during the written exam each student must hand in a personal paper to the lecturer, which will be discussed at the oral exam (summaryof a specialist article in English to be agreed with the lecturer during the course).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is addressed to students who have a high level of basic linguistic preparation corresponding at least to the B1 level of “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages” (*CEFR*), certified by SeLdA suitability or by an equal certificate.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching and face-to face exams, the contents of the written test will flow into a single remote oral test, in a manner that will be communicated to students in good time.

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.