# English language for linguistic computing

## Prof. Pierfranca Forchini; Prof. Francesca Seracini; Prof. Francesca Poli

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

The course aim is to (a) promote an awareness of the linguistic and visual features of certain specialized and non-specialized genres by exploring spoken and written text types related to the field of linguistic computing language (b) provide students with the metalinguistic skills needed to evaluate them, (c) gain transferable skills in terms of self-study, project work, academic and business presentations, academic papers and curricula, (d) promote an awareness of corpus linguistics tools, approaches and resources for self-study and (e) develop critical thinking.

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

– discuss theories of specialized and popularized discourse in English;

– recognize and analyze the spoken and written morphosyntactic, lexical, textual, visual and pragmatic features characterizing different genres;

– distinguish linguistic features characterizing American English, British English and English spoken by Italians;

– produce academic presentations, academic papers, CV, personal profiles, presentation letters;

– recognize and access corpus linguistics tools, approaches and resources for self-learning;

– develop critical reasoning.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover the following topics:

– English language for linguistic computing: ESP vs. popularized texts (definition; morphosyntactic, lexical, textual, visual and pragmatic features; scope; analysis);

– Varieties of English and common mistakes: American English, British English and English spoken by Italians (pronunciation, lexicon, spelling and grammar);

– Academic presentations, academic papers and CV;

– Corpus linguistics as a methodology: basic notions, tools, approaches and resources for self-learning.

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

Texts and materials will be communicated in class and through Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, exercises, practical sessions to develop critical thinking and analyze texts, presentations and group work.

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 are required to write a research paper (4,000 words) or a presentation reporting on the results of the analysis of a corpus. The paper will account for 50% of the final mark. The students will need to demonstrate that they can apply the methods, tools and thoretical concepts presented in the course to carry out an in-depth analysis which highlights the features and issues related to the computing of English spoken and written texts. The assessment will take into account the structure of the paper/presentation (25%) and the quality of the linguistic analysis (25%). The students’ knowledge of the course contents, as well as the ability to discuss the topics critically and with linguistic competence in correct, fluent English will constitute 50% of the final mark and will be assessed during the oral exam.

If the health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevents examining in the classroom, students will be notified in good time of the alternative assessment method and criteria.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a B2 level (CEFR) of English. The course is taught in English and students must enrol in the course on Blackboard. It is suitable for Erasmus and exchange students.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester Prof Forchini’s, Prof. Seracini and Prof. Poli’s office hours take place on a weekly basis, as publicized on her University webpage, on the third floor in Via Necchi 9 (Milan). Timetable variations will be communicated through Blackboard and/or her university webpage

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