# English Language 3 (Professional Communication and Language)

Gr. A-K: Prof. Pierfranca Forchini; Gr: L-Z: Prof. Francesca Costa

*Gr. A-K: Prof. Pierfranca Forchini*

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

The course in English linguistics aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills which are needed to analyze spoken and written texts in English, with a special focus on professional communication. To this purpose, students are introduced to selected tools for the analysis of spoken and written discourse and are guided in their application to different professional genres.

The course also aims to enhance the students’ communicative skills, by encouraging them to participate in the analysis and observation tasks carried out in class. Finally, the course aims to contribute to the development of the students’ learning skills and critical thinking skills.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students are expected to have gained an understanding of the theoretical constructs, methodologies and professional genres specified in the Contents section.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students are expected to be able to analyze spoken and written texts with reference to the constructs and methodologies specified in the Content section.

*Transferable skills*

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their communicative skills, learning skills and critical thinking skills by participating actively in the analysis and observation tasks in the classroom.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Defining professional communication and using linguistics in professional communication.

Pragmatics (The cooperative Principle, Speech Acts & Politeness).

Genre and Register – Biber’s Text Types.

Features of spoken (and movie) language vs. written language.

Language and Culture: Cross-Cultural Communication.

Corpus Linguistics as a methodology and tools to analyze language.

***READING LIST***

P. Forchini, *Communication in Action,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2017.

Further bibliography may be communicated via Blackboard during the course.

***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 are tested through an oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams, and can choose to give a presentation in English on one of the topics from the course.

At the oral exam of Professional Communication, 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 mark resulting from the weighted average of the written and oral language tests (up to a maximum of 1/6 and 2/6 of the final mark respectively) will contribute to the final Professional Communication course mark, worth 12 credits.

The final mark will be calculated taking into consideration:

– the students’ ability to: report on and comment on the topics dealt with in the course; identify and explain the linguistic and contextual features in excerpts from spoken and written texts with reference to the constructs and methodologies presented in the course; draw meaningful links among the studied topics; relate what they learnt to their own experience as documented in their reflective journals.

– the candidate’s communicative competence.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must have finished the English exams of the second year (i.e. prova intermedia scritta e orale e morfosintassi) before they attempt any exams in the second year. Students must pass the written and oral language exams (prove intermedie) of the third year before they take the Professional Communication 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’s office hours take place on a weekly basis, according to the notices in the Dept. of Scienze linguistiche e letterature straniere (Via Necchi 9, III floor). Timetable variations will be communicated through her university webpage.

*Gr: L-Z: Prof. Francesca Costa*

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

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills which are needed to analyse spoken and written texts in English, with a special focus on persuasion in political discourse and professional communication. To this purpose, students are introduced to selected tools for the analysis of spoken and written discourse. The course also aims to enhance the students’ communicative skills, by encouraging them to participate in the analysis and observation tasks carried out in class. Finally, the course aims to contribute to the development of the students’ learning skills and critical thinking skills.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students are expected to have gained an understanding of the theoretical constructs and methodologies specified in the Contents section.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students are expected to be able to analyse spoken and written texts with reference to the constructs and methodologies specified in the Contents section.

*Transferable skills*

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their communicative skills, learning skills and critical thinking skills by participating actively individually and in groups in the analysis and observation tasks in the classroom.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– English as an international language.

– The interconnections between culture and language.

– Conversation, discourse and multimodal analysis.

– Linguistic features of written/spoken political texts.

– Professional communication at work.

– Linguistic means of persuasion.

Active participation and group work will be an integral part of the course.

***READING LIST***

Compulsory texts:

C. Cucchi, *Insights into English discourse*, EDUCatt, Milano, 2016.

A. Partington-C. Taylor, *The language of persuasion in politics*, Routledge, London, 2017.

Further bibliography may be communicated via Blackboard during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

A range of the following: lectures, videolectures, audiovisual materials, tasks, seminars, group discussions, revisions, group and peer-to-peer-work presentations and self study.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Continuous assessment and final oral exam. Students are tested through an oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams. The final mark is out of 30. Students will be assessed on 1) a formative assessment project work in the form of a PPT presentation on a linguistic analysis of a political text using the categories dealt with in the bibliography and in the course itself (55% of the mark) 2) a summative assessment oral exam which will test the students’ knowledge of the contents of the course (45% of the mark). Both disciplinary content and language skills in terms of fluency and accuracy will be assessed.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a C1 level (CEFR) of English.

The course is taught in English and all students must enrol for the course on Blackboard. It is suitable for Erasmus and exchange students. Students must have finished the English exams of the previous year (ie prova intermedia scritta e orale e morfosintassi) before they attempt any exams in the third year.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester office hours take place on a weekly basis, as publicised on the University webpages.