# English Specialised Texts (Year 2) (Master’s degree in Foreign languages, literatures and cultures, curriculum in International Management)

Gr. A-K: Prof. Amanda C. Murphy; Gr. L-Z: Prof. Francesca Seracini

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

The course aim is to develop a critical understanding of the linguistic and multimodal features characterising certain specialised genres in the areas of business and institutional communication and provide students with the metalinguistic skills needed to evaluate them.

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course the students will be expected to have acquired:

– knowledge of the theories and development of ESP

– understanding of the discourse features that realise different genres

– understanding of the concepts of knowledge communication and popularisation

– knowledge of the strategies employed in the popularisation process

– knowledge of the key concepts of corpus linguistics analysis

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

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

– be able to discuss theories of specialised discourse in English;

– have developed an awareness of the linguistic and multimodal features of certain specialised genres;

– be able to recognise and analyse the morphosyntactic, lexical, textual, visual and pragmatic features characterising specialised and popularised texts;

– be able to identify persuasive strategies in specialised discourse.

*Transferable skills*

– concepts and tools of corpus linguistics for the analysis of specialised and popularised texts

– the ability to negotiate work in a team and/or prepare slides for effective presentations

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover the following topics:

– ESP: definition, theories and development

– Specialised vs. popularised texts: morphosyntactic, lexical, textual, multimodal and pragmatic features;

– knowledge communication;

– persuasive strategies in specialised discourse;

– corpus linguistics: key concepts and tools for linguistic analysis.

***READING LIST***

– Compulsory text for the students who choose assessment method a) (see *Assessment Method and Criteria*):

Murphy A. C. - Seracini F. L. (eds.). 2023. *Exploring Specialised Texts.* Milano: EDUCatt.

– Compulsory texts for the students who choose assessment method b) (see *Assessment Method and Criteria*):

Garzone G. 2012. *Perspectives on ESP and popularisation.* Milano: Edizioni Unicopli.

Murphy A. C. - Seracini F. L. (eds.). 2023. *Exploring Specialised Texts.* Milano: EDUCatt.

Additional texts and materials may be communicated in class and through Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, active participation in group work, exercises on specialised and popularised texts, practical sessions to develop critical thinking and analyse texts, guest seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students may choose between two alternative assessment methods:

a) – a test on Blackboard of theoretical content towards the end of the course (worth 50% of the final mark), and a group written assignment based on a corpus of a type of specialised or popularised text to be submitted at the end of the course and discussed individually at the oral exam (worth 50% of the final mark). The oral exam will assess the student’s knowledge of the course contents, and the ability to discuss the topics critically in correct, fluent English. Participation in class will be taken into consideration.

In the group assignment students will need to demonstrate that they can apply the methods, tools and theoretical concepts presented in the course to carry out an in-depth analysis of a corpus of specialised or popularised texts.

b) – a written presentation of a text analysis (worth 50% of the final mark) to be uploaded on Blackboard prior to the exam date. The presentation should contain between 12 and 15 slides. Instructions concerning the texts to be analysed, guidelines and deadlines will be provided via Blackboard;

– an oral exam (worth 50% of the final mark). The oral exam will assess the student’s knowledge of the contents of the course materials and of the texts in the reading list, and the ability to discuss the topics critically in correct, fluent English.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a C1 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. Students may take the exam at the end of the course, but have to pass the written language essay test (prova intermedia scritta - which they can take from May onwards) before their final mark can be officially registered.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester, office hours will take place on a weekly basis upon appointment.