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

## Prof. Maria Grazia Borsalino

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

The course is aimed at training a figure of psychologist able to study their discipline with the help of English and to communicate internationally. For this purpose the course will develop the students’ abilities in:

*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 terminology.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students will be able to:

* produce written and oral material, paying attention to text coherence and cohesion.

*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 the contents of their work, 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 lexis, structures and use of the English language;
* utilise specialist literature to enlarge their academic interests and become aware of their professional objectives.

***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 good working knowledge of English for Psychology:

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

- 2.2 *Psychology in applied settings*

- 2.3 *Listening and viewing*

UNIT 3. *Introduction to expressions used in scientific narrative.*

- 3.1 *Psychologists at work, Journals of the BPS*

- 3.2 *Structured Abstracts*

- 3.3 *Methods of research*

UNIT 4. *Comprehension and production of specialist papers.*

- 4.1 *Focus on the text, Themes for discussion*

- 4.2 *Essay, 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 given in class and available on Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Whole-class lectures, guided assignments, group projects. Analysis of texts, audiovisual materials and targeted websites.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

A written test and an oral test in English. Both tests must be taken in the same roll-call. A pass in the written test will qualify the student to take the oral test in the days immediately following the written test.

The written test will mainly verify the students’ knowledge of syntax and lexis, as well as text comprehension skills; the oral test will verify their knowledge of the course content and their specific communicative ability. Background materials are available on Blackboard platform.

In addition, during the written test each student must hand in a personal paper to the lecturer (answers to questions on a specialist article that will be provided by the lecturer during the course). The paper will be discussed at the oral test.

***NOTES AND PRE-REQUISITES***

The course is designed for students whose level of English corresponds at least to the B1 level of the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages” (*CEFR*), certified by the University’s language centre (SeLdA) or by an equal certificate.

***OFFICE HOURS***

The lecturer will be available for consultation at regular weekly office hours.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <http://docenti.unicatt.it>