# English Language (Advanced)

## Prof. Alessandra Armanni

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

The purpose of the course is to consolidate and strengthen students' knowledge of the English language as regards structures, grammar and lexis according to a communicative approach. The course also aims to provide students with tools to interact spontaneously in professional communication contexts, with special reference to the education and training field and disability counselling.

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

– develop an understanding of written and oral texts with particular reference to the specialist area of training, disability training and counselling;

– develop the ability to report and interact by discussing the texts addressed;

– develop the ability to present their own personal study path and future ambitions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Review and detailed study of the main English grammar and language structures with special focus on verb tenses and moods through written and multimedia texts.

– Learning of specialised vocabulary for education, training and disability.

– Presentation of the concept of disability (WHO) and of the Convention on the rights of the disabled.

– Analysis of texts with topics related to possible professional fields linked to the degree courses to which the course refers.

– Presentation, sharing and feedback of group work.

***READING LIST***

R. Murphy, *English Grammar in Use,* *with Answers: A Self-Study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students of English*, CUP. Text only suggested as personal further study material, not used during lectures.

– Collection of language and grammar exercises on specified websites and on organised collections on the Blackboard platform.

– Reading texts uploaded to the Blackboard platform and analysed in class.

– A choice of reading texts uploaded on the Blackboard platform, which will complement the mandatory texts and the texts analysed in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will take place in presence, there’s the possibility of blended teaching online on the BLACKBOARD platform with lessons focused on the presentation of specialised texts and videos with content, linguistic-grammatical, and lexical analysis in interactive mode, with short group works, with activities to consolidate notions and guide towards an effective communicative interaction on the topics addressed, including the possibility of participating in asynchronous thematic forums, with weekly help-desk activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is divided into two parts – a written and an oral exam – to be taken on the same exam session ('appello') but not on the same day. The written test is preparatory for the oral exam, therefore a pass mark in the written test of at least 18/30 is required to access the oral exam. The first part does not allow the use of a dictionary and is aimed at verifying the student’s expressive language skills with exercises on grammar knowledge with particular reference to verb tenses and modes and with a request for a short written production through a personal written comment on a quote, an extract or a short article, focused on the topics of the course.

The exam will assess grammatical accuracy, lexical adequacy, and reading comprehension ability and the effectiveness of written production in relation to the issues addressed.

The second part, which can be accessed immediately if the first part is at least sufficient (minimum 65% of the items must be correct), consists of an oral interview, exclusively in English, focused both on the contents of the texts analysed in class and both on contents of the texts chosen for individual analysis; the lecturer-learner interaction is aimed at assessing knowledge of contents treated, expressive language skills, conversation skills of the students also in describing themselves and their aspirations, and their ability to argue and give personal opinions on the issues addressed in the texts, in order to show a communicative competence that can be used in the professional field.

The assessment criteria will therefore be the ability to communicate in English (comprehensible pronunciation, adequate communication skills in terms of understanding and production), adequate knowledge of the text contents, ability to discuss the texts examined.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are required to enrol in this course using the *Blackboard* platform. The minimum level required to take the exam corresponds to level B1+ of the Common European Framework in all four linguistic-communicative skills.

Currently, the system will only consider a *pass* assessment by decision of the Faculty Council, although the final mark will be registered on a 30-point scale.

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.