Course Objectives:

The course focuses on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in a university environment. You will learn how to write short academic texts effectively, as well as to improve your grammar and vocabulary. Strategies for scan and skim reading are also included. Furthermore, you will gain confidence in speaking English in an academic context and understanding what foreigners are saying more easily. After this course you should be able to:

- listen to academic lectures
- take effective notes
- read academic texts quickly and effectively
- express ideas clearly and accurately in academic writing
- give oral presentations
- develop academic vocabulary
- analyze and improve pronunciation

Course Description

It is a course designed to enable students to use English effectively in the academic contexts they will encounter in their studies. The main emphasis is on improving students’ confidence and competence in using English in these contexts. The study method is primarily based on lectures and seminars. Use will also be made of video and tape recordings and relevant Web-based materials/activities.

Syllabus: English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

This syllabus is indicative. The balance of the components, and the weighting accorded to each will be based on the specific needs of the students.

1. Spoken academic communication: recognising the purposes of and the differences between spoken and written communication in English in academic contexts; identifying and practising
international and linguistic aspects of participation in seminar discussions; preparing and delivering oral presentations.

2. Written academic communication: identifying and writing functions common in written academic discourse; note-taking from reading and listening inputs; understanding and applying principles of academic text structure; developing paraphrasing, summarising and referencing skills; achieving appropriate tone and style in academic writing.

3. Reading and listening in academic contexts: understanding the content and structure of information delivered both orally and in print form; reading and listening for different purposes e.g. as input to tasks, and for developing specific reading or listening skills; using a dictionary to obtain lexical, phonological and orthographical information.

4. Language development: improving and extending relevant features of students’ grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

Assignments:

There will be three short writing assignments. These are not graded, but you are expected to apply and incorporate skills covered during previous sessions. Participants are also expected to give short oral presentations during the course.

Course Materials:

Reading materials selected by the instructor.

Handouts & exercises prepared by the instructor.

Original publications and web-based resources will be reviewed as necessary.

Important Note:

No single text covers all the material contained in this course. Therefore, you are not expected to buy any specific book, unless, of course, you wish to do so for your own interest! We will reference material from several sources, including the textbooks listed below. Copies of these texts are on reserve at the Centro Linguistico, and copies of notes and course handouts will be made available electronically.

References


*Copies of these texts are available at the Centro Linguistico for reference:*


*Oxford Collocations Dictionary*, OUP.

**Important Notes:**

A good monolingual dictionary, such as the *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* 2007, is recommended for students who already have a high standard of English and want to learn about word use.

Another alternative is to use an online dictionary and thesaurus when you are writing:

http://www.macmillandictionary.com

http://www.ldoceonline.com

http://www.thefreedictionary.com

http://www.learnersdictionary.com

http://www.americancorpus.org

http://www.askoxford.com/?view=uk

http://www.visuwords.com

http://www.visualthesaurus.com

**Difficulty:** Intermediate to advanced levels.

**Duration:** 4 hrs a week, 40 hrs in total.

**Periodicity:** Taught in the second semester, 10 weeks in total.

**Class Location:** Aula De Saussure (W) III piano – Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

**Instructor:** Laura Tommaso  e-mail: laura.tommaso@unimol.it

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 15-16 hrs., or by appointment (send me e-mail).