



LUMSA
UNIVERSITÀ

DIPARTIMENTO DI GIURISPRUDENZA, ECONOMIA, POLITICA E
LINGUE MODERNE



Inglese per la comunicazione politica (LM62)

Prof.ssa Raffaella Merlini

Insegnamento condiviso con il Corso di laurea
in Relazioni internazionali (LM52)



Learning objectives

- The course aims at developing an advanced knowledge of the English language in the context of political communication.
- Students will be helped to consolidate their written and oral skills, through language exercises and the analysis of the linguistic and textual features of news reports and political speeches.
- They will be enabled to contribute, in a linguistically and culturally effective way, to the drawing up of development aid or innovation projects.
- They will also gain a theoretical and practical insight into those communication and negotiation strategies that are required to operate in the milieus of international diplomacy.

Contents and structure

TWO MODULES of 20 hours each

Module 1

(just for LM62 students)

- Consolidation of grammar.
- Reading and listening comprehension exercises conducted on news reports and speeches concerning topical themes of political and economic international relations.
- Instructions on how to draw up an original development aid project / innovation project in English.

Module 2

(for both LM62 and LM52 students)

- Theoretical illustration of such concepts as peace linguistics, conflict talk and strategies, verbal politeness, mitigating devices, and empathy.
- Language exercises addressing specific aspects of the use of English for international diplomacy.
- Role-plays of diplomatic negotiation scenarios.

MODULE 1: sequence of class activities



Monday class

Consolidation
of grammar



Reading and listening
comprehension
of news reports



Friday class

Development aid
project /
Innovation
project

MODULE 2

MODULE 2: sequence of class activities



Monday class

Theoretical insights
into international
communication



Friday class

Language exercises
on the use of English
for diplomacy



End of
course

Role-plays of
diplomatic
negotiations

Assessment

Exam guidelines for LM62 students

- **GROUP PROJECT** (25% of final mark)

In groups, students will be asked to create a **Power Point presentation** of an **original development aid / innovation project**.

NOTES:

- **Non attending students** can draw up the project **individually**.
- Submission of a successful project **by the last week of the course** is a **pre-requisite for the admission to the final exam**.

- **FINAL EXAM** (75% of final mark)

- **Written paper:** language exercises of the typologies covered in class (one from the grammar review of Module 1 and one from the diplomatic English exercises of Module 2) (25%).

NOTE: Students are required to pass the written paper to be admitted to the oral discussion, which will be held on the same day.

- **Oral discussion** of the theoretical contents of the course – see Textbook (50%).

Exam guidelines for LM52 students

FINAL EXAM

- **WRITTEN PART**

The written exam is based on the work that students carry out with the language tutor, **Dr. Fabio Matassa**, and includes a **grammar test and an essay** aimed at assessing linguistic competence and mastery of English for international relations.

NOTES:

- Students are required to pass the written paper to be admitted to the oral discussion.
- The written paper **carries no mark**, and remains **valid for a year**; students who don't sit for/pass the oral exam within this period of time, will have to re-sit for the written part.
- **ORAL PART**: Discussion of the theoretical contents of the course – see Textbook.

Reading list

TEXTBOOK

Friedrich Patricia (2016) *English for Diplomatic Purposes, Multilingual Matters: Bristol; Introduction, chapters 1-3 and 6-7.*

OPTIONAL READING

- Merlini R. (2009) "Seeking asylum and seeking identity in a mediated encounter. The projection of selves through discursive practices", *Interpreting* 11/1, pp. 57-93.
- Merlini R. (2013) "Changing perspectives: Politeness in cooperative multi-party interpreted talk". In C. Schäffner, K. Kredens, Y. Fowler (Eds) *Interpreting in a changing landscape. Selected papers from Critical Link 6*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, pp. 267-283.
- Merlini R. (2015) "Empathy: A 'zone of uncertainty' in mediated healthcare practice", *Cultus: The Journal of intercultural mediation and communication*, 8; pp. 27-49.
- Merlini R. & Schäffner, C. (2020) "Narrating narratives of migration through translation, interpreting and the media", *Mediating narratives of migration*, Special Issue of *Cultus: The Journal of intercultural mediation and communication* (Eds. R. Merlini & C. Schäffner) 13, pp. 3-23.

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING (for LM52 students)

- Jackson R. & Sorensen, G. (2013) *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, Oxford University Press: Oxford.



**I hope you'll
enjoy the course!**