

ENGLISH SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COURSE FOR ECONOMICS

Course Description

TEACHING LANGUAGE: English

SEMESTER/ ACADEMIC YEAR: winter 2011/2012

TOTAL LECTURE HOURS: 30

CREDIT POINTS: 5

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: L-LIN/12

TOTAL HOURS OF EXERCISES:

LECTURER: *Jemma Prior – Office E 2.02 - Jemma.Prior@unibz.it*

TEACHING ASSISTANT: *Edwina Thornton, Edwina.thornton@unibz.it*

PREREQUISITE: Evidence of good upper-intermediate knowledge of English (certificates or a pass in an exam at the B2 standard following the Common European Framework for Reference).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An advanced course in specific language for economics students based on the C1 level of the Common European Framework for Reference.

The course focuses on the various styles of language used in the field of economics and business studies and aims to improve students' receptive, but above all productive skills. The course is also designed to assist students in their preparatory work for their final degree project in English.

Topics covered include an introduction to more complex grammatical structures used in this field and at this level, with subsequent consolidation through use of practical applications. There will also be emphasis on improving productive skills: students will develop their ability to produce accurate, cohesive written texts in English for professional and academic use and will learn how to make professionally acceptable presentations.

Teaching methodology emphasises student co-operation and participation in and outside the classroom through individual, pair and group work.

LIST OF TOPICS COVERED:

- General introduction to course
- Grammar review at C1 level: complex sentences; lexicogrammar
- Introduction to and analysis of effective reading, writing, listening and speaking skills
- Audience and effects on language register and style
- Academic writing skills: summaries, paraphrasing, reports, generalisation, exemplification, caution, classification, interpretation of data (trends).
- Presentations

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, students should be able to deal effectively with the following:

Reading and comprehending economics texts in English, understanding the organisation of these texts and the relationship between the elements using cohesive devices;
Writing clear, accurate reports based on familiar academic or economic issues or situations;
Organising and giving a short professionally acceptable presentation on a topic connected to Economics;
Adapting language to an audience (reader or listener) showing an awareness of register;
Showing an awareness of language appropriateness in academic settings.

TEACHING FORMAT: Lectures

ASSESSMENT: Portfolio (25% of final mark) – Written exam (50% of final mark) – Oral exam (25% of final mark)

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Levitt, Steven & Dubner, Stephen. 2005. *Freakonomics: A rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything*. London: Penguin.
- Vince, Michael 2003 *Advanced Language Practice* Oxford: Macmillan. **or any other advanced student's grammar.**
- Advanced learners English dictionary, e.g. Longman DCE or Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners.

SUPPLEMENTARY readings:

- Jordan, R.R 1999 *Academic Writing Course* Harlow: Longman.

Reference will be made to further titles during the course. Students should also be familiar with *The Economist*, which will be used from time to time during the course.