

ENGLISH ACTIVITIES

Study programme
International Relations

LM-52

LAUREA (MAGISTRALE)

A.Y. 2021-22

Teacher: CRISTINA PENNAROLA

☎ 081 2538282 e-mail: cristina.pennarola@unina.it

SSD

CREDITS

Year of study (I, II)

Semester (I, II)

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- analyse and interpret multimodal texts in English on social and political issues;
- identify features and strategies of academic discourse and integrate them in their oral and written academic assignments;
- present specific topics and discuss issues in English clearly and effectively.

Knowledge and understanding

The English Activities module develops students' linguistic and metalinguistic competences in English and provides them with some discourse analysis tools meant to help them in their in-depth reading, analysis and interpretation of political, institutional and academic discourses. Students will be sensitized to aspects of style, culture and ideology shaping language encoding in any kind of communicative act, be it a political speech, a news report, a conference or an essay.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Students will develop their awareness of different styles in English and their understanding of intercultural issues. Moreover, through practical activities and assignments, they will familiarize themselves with the style and conventions most appropriate to academic essays and presentations.

Further expected learning outcomes:

- **Making judgements:** through practical activities, students learn how to explore some crucial issues such as the role of the media and soft power in international relations as well as to critically present their opinion in accordance with academic discourse conventions.
- **Communication skills:** the individual tasks and groupwork activities carried out in class will help students develop their ability to use indirect language and negotiation techniques as well as their ability to argue their opinions and disagree politely. Based on the seminars, workshops and hands-on practice, students will also enhance their language skills, argumentation techniques, intercultural sensitivity and ability to use a formal academic style
- **Learning skills** Throughout the module students will develop their linguistic, metalinguistic and intercultural awareness in English with a view to analysing contemporary multimodal texts, as well as familiarizing themselves with the genres and conventions of academic discourse.

CONTENTS

Features and genres of academic discourse - Argument, claim and evidence - The genre of the essay – corpus-building and concordancers as an aid to academic writing – Presentation skills - Essentialism vs. non essentialism - Views of culture and multiculturalism – Intercultural and crosscultural communication - Othering, stereotyping and deconstructing - negotiating skills – arguing one's position – disagreeing politely – political discourse and persuasion – media discourses and contemporary issues

RECOMMENDED READING:

Adrian Holliday, John Kullman, & Martin Hyde. 2017. *Intercultural Communication. An advanced resource book for students.* London, Routledge.
Michael McCarthy, Felicity O' Dell, 2008, *Academic Vocabulary in Use*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

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ASSESSMENT METHOD

a) Learning results to be verified: The students' attainment of the learning objectives is tested by a written and oral examination on a 30-point scale. The written test consists of some exercises testing the students' lexico-grammatical competence and their writing skills. For the attending students the oral test will consist in a critical analysis of the materials used in class written and oral assignments. For the students who have not attended classes, the oral test will consist in the presentation of two topics in the textbook and the discussion of a 2500 word essay on a topic chosen by the student and related to any of the following areas: language, education, culture and society.

b) Assessment method:

The exam will consist of	Written and oral examination	X	Written examination		Oral examination	
In case of a written exam, questions are*	Multiple choices	X	Open questions	X	Numerical exercises	

(* more answers possible)