



Course Syllabus: English Second Year Master's Degree - A.Y. 2024/2025

Docente: Dott.ssa Diana Cella

Prerequisites: English for the First Year of the Bachelor's Degree – Advanced English

Course outline:

1. Unlimited oral comprehension
2. Native-level oral production
3. Critical reading and interpretation of advanced texts
4. Advanced and sophisticated writing
5. Advanced grammar and refined structures
6. Extensive and precise vocabulary
7. Cultural insight and advanced linguistic context

Course outline details:

1. Unlimited oral comprehension

- Listening to and analyzing complex content such as debates, specialist conferences, and dialogues with different accents
- Ability to grasp all nuances, including implicit intentions, sarcasm, humor, and cultural differences
- In-depth study of different registers (from colloquial to technical) and regional variants of English

2. Native-level oral production

- Advanced discussions on abstract and specific topics, using sophisticated language and an appropriate tone for the situation
- Ability to express opinions, formulate complex hypotheses, and participate in articulate debates spontaneously and precisely
- Improvement of intonation and pronunciation for natural and fluent speech, with exercises on formal and informal registers

3. Critical reading and interpretation of advanced texts



- Analysis of complex and authentic texts, with particular attention to literary works by Canadian female authors, such as short stories by Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Anne Carson, Miriam Toews, Margaret Laurence, and Emma Donoghue
- In-depth study of specialized terminology and learned idiomatic expressions

4. Advanced and sophisticated writing

- Composition of complex texts such as academic essays, formal reports, and reflective essays
- Use of sophisticated language, elegant connectors, and advanced syntactic structures for clear and authoritative writing
- Attention to style and tone, with adaptation to the context

5. Advanced grammar and refined structures

- Consolidation of all grammatical structures, with a focus on the more complex ones (e.g., inversions, advanced hypothetical clauses, complex indirect speech)
- Refinement of the use of idiomatic structures, advanced verbal phrases, and rare lexical collocations
- Expert use of various registers and tones, adapting to different situations and audiences

6. Extensive and precise vocabulary

- Expansion of vocabulary on complex and specialized themes
- In-depth study of synonyms and semantic nuances to ensure precision and expressive variety
- Development of advanced idiomatic expressions and particular phrases

7. Culture insight and advanced linguistic context

- Analysis of literary texts, particularly short stories, for a deep understanding of mentality and cultural dynamics. Specifically, the analysis of short stories written by Canadian female authors. The selected stories explore themes such as identity, gender, culture, and social expectations. Through careful reading, critical discussions, and writing exercises, students will improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills while gaining insight into Canadian literature from a female perspective.



Additionally, The New Yorker will provide the class with short stories, articles, reviews, and documentary short films.

- Differences between English variants, with a particular focus on regional accents and idiomatic expressions.

Educational Objectives:

The Very Advanced English course is designed to achieve complete mastery of the language, with particular attention to precision, fluency, and expressive sophistication, which are attained through oral presentations and reflective essays.

In the lab, TOEFL materials will be used for advanced learning of academic listening and reading skills.

By the end of this course, students will possess the knowledge necessary to comprehend and produce texts of any complexity, communicate naturally and precisely on complex topics, and adapt to any linguistic and cultural context.

Recommended Materials:

All materials used in class, including videos, podcasts, and short films, are available on UniStudium.

Methods Used in the Classroom:

Advanced communicative approach;

Critical analysis of authentic materials;

Refinement of written production;

In-depth grammatical and lexical study;

Guided autonomous learning.