

Syllabus

Course description

Course title:	English for professional and academic purposes
Course year:	3rd
Semester:	2nd
Course code:	51092
Degree:	Bachelor in Social Work
Scientific sector:	L-LIN/12
Lecturer:	Mastellotto Lynn
Module:	/
Lecturer other module:	/
Credits:	2
Total lecturing hours:	20
Total office hours:	6
Office hours:	See lecturer's website for day/time; additional meetings by appointment
Attendance:	according to the regulation
Teaching language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	none
Course description:	This course covers the specific academic language and communication skills in English required by students in the Bachelor in Social Work and in related professional contexts. The course aims to provide situated speaking and writing practice for the development of basic competences in English for academic and specialist purposes.
Specific educational objectives:	Students will develop their productive competences (spoken and written) through tasks related to academic and professional communication. In particular, the course covers skills associated with reading academic texts, critical thinking, and writing summaries related to issues in the field of Social Work. In addition, students will learn strategies for effective speaking in English for academic and professional audiences, focusing on the development of argumentation skills.
List of topics covered:	<p>1. Academic writing – summaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding audience and purpose • organizing text: 3-part structure • synthesizing key information • using paraphrase • signposting language and discourse markers for cohesion • applying features of academic writing (register, lexis, grammar) <p>2. Academic speaking – arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forming opinions: questioning and reasoning • expressing convictions: case-making through claims • negotiation: reaching a compromise • persuasion: moving others to action • signposting language and discourse markers for cohesion • applying features of academic speaking (register, lexis, grammar)
Teaching format:	Lecture, discussion, workshop
Learning outcomes:	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand basic text, sentence and paragraph structure • understand the content, style and structure of arguments related to issues in Social Work

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the features and components of a written summary • understand the concept of register, particularly in relation to academic writing and speaking • know a range of discourse markers and 'signposting' language associated with academic English communication • know a range of vocabulary and grammar structures used in discourse related to Social Work practices • understand the features associated with argumentation in spoken English <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to plan and deliver an oral argument for an academic audience highlighting a key issue in Social Work practice • be able to express an opinion based on evidence • be able to use linguistic forms for negotiation and persuasion • be able to use hedgers and boosters in argumentation • be able to write an effective summary that follows the conventions associated with this text genre • be able to synthesize information and paraphrase ideas • be able to use a range of discourse markers and 'signposting' language associated with both written and spoken English communication <p>Making judgements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze meaning in spoken and written academic discourse • identify claims and counter-claims in argumentation • determine relevancy and strength of evidence in argumentation • select appropriate lexis and grammar forms for written and spoken texts • discern key points from supporting evidence when producing a summary • focus on form in spoken and written communication <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use soft skills (active listening, empathy, interpersonal dialogue) for effective communication • demonstrate cross-cultural awareness in communication • use verbal and non-verbal strategies when speaking • use English linguistic forms effectively to present oral arguments • use English linguistic forms effectively to present written summaries <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop language awareness of correct English usage for academic communication • notice errors and be able to correct these in spoken and written texts • acquire the skills necessary to present an oral argument and written summary autonomously
Assessment:	<p>1) Formative assessment (intermediary assignment) – students will deliver a brief oral presentation on an issue related to the field of Social Work, demonstrating their skills of argumentation.</p> <p>(2) Summative assessment (final written exam) – students will produce a written summary on a topic related to the field of Social Work. The summary will adhere to a prescribed format analyzed in class.</p>
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:	<p>Detailed marking rubrics will be made available during the course for both the formative assignment and the final exam. Evaluation criteria will include the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a spoken text that demonstrates awareness of style and structure of arguments; present convictions grounded in evidence; use language effectively for negotiation and persuasion; use verbal and non-verbal communication effectively to engage an audience; use

	<p>signposting language and discourse markers for cohesion; use hedgers and boosters in argumentation; critically reflect on one's own accuracy in oral communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a written text that adheres to generic conventions for summaries; clearly structure a text; use concision and paraphrase effectively; use academic register correctly; use signposting language and discourse markers for textual cohesion; critically reflect on one's own accuracy in written communication.
Required readings:	<p>E-book (available on OLE):</p> <p><i>English Communication for Social and Human Services: A Cultural-Linguistic Approach</i> by Mary Ellen Toffle (CELID, 2017)</p>
Supplementary readings:	<p>Selected extracts from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>English for International Social Work</i> by Geraldine Ludbrook (Libreria Editrice Cafoscarina, 2011) ISBN 978-88-7543-302-4 https://iris.unive.it/retrieve/handle/10278/28702/23914/IntlSocialWork.pdf - <i>The Writer's Handbook: A Guide for Social Workers</i> by Dona J. Young et al. (2020) ISBN: 978-16-9513-149-1. <p>These and other texts, articles, case studies, podcasts and videos will be available on OLE.</p>