

# **DOTTORATO IN GENETICA, BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE E CELLULARE**

## **CORSO DI LINGUA INGLESE**

### **UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA**

**a.a. 2019-20**

**Lecturer:** Deirdre Kantz ([timelines21st@gmail.com](mailto:timelines21st@gmail.com))

**Office Hours:** from 3 pm to 4 pm on lesson dates in aula G1 (where the lessons will be held).

#### ***Course Objectives***

The objective of this course is to provide the Genetics PhD students with the necessary communication skills in English to navigate the world of research and everything it entails. Students will be introduced to scientific genres and systems, relevant scientific English vocabulary, usage and functional language, as well as elements of style and register found in scientific texts. Three multiliteracy domains will be taken into consideration: communication skills, critical thinking and management of information.

#### ***Course Overview***

The focus will be mainly on written scientific genres: organisation of scientific articles and their structure, the evolution of scientific writing, the IMRAD structure and the language involved: basic writing skills, paragraph structure, law of proximity; the printed page, its evolution and textual objects which are fundamental in scientific writing: tables, charts, diagrams, etc. However, the other basic language skills (speaking, listening and reading comprehension) will be practised and put to the test throughout the course as a means to improve writing skills.

#### ***Instructional Objectives***

Students will practise summarising texts, comparing tables, diagrams and charts as a first step towards the development of good written and oral discourse skills in English which presuppose a mastery of the typical microstructures of scientific genres. These include a) basic clause structures; b) the use of nouns to express abstract processes (nominalisation) and the effects abstract expression has on negative, demonstrative (use of the definite article) and interrogative clauses in scientific discourse; c) the role of the verb and other parts of speech in expressing opinions, probabilities, possibilities and hypotheses (modality); d) cause-effect relationships; e) quantification and expression of statistical data; f) sequencing and numbering structures; g) comparative and contrastive structures; h) the use of acronyms, initialisms and abbreviations in scientific discourse; i) agency suppression and deletion.

#### ***Learning / Teaching Methods***

1. Frontal lessons, interactive
2. Assignments (in class and online)

The classroom lessons will be a mixture of lecture, discussion and brainstorming, and are taught in English. There will also be a workshop approach to carrying out assignments in class, based on both group and individual work. Online resources will be used to enhance instruction and students are expected to carry out

some learning tasks autonomously outside of class time as part of their self-study programme. Details of the latter will be given at the beginning of and during the course.

### **Assesment and Attendance**

Students will receive constant feedback on the work they do and their assignments throughout the course, which entails constant assessment, but also self-assessment.

### **REFERENCES (suggested/recommended reading), MATERIALS and SOFTWARE TOOLS**

Details of course materials and/or Internet tools will be given during the course. Any software tools or portals required will be discussed in class during the course.

Loiacono Anna (2018). *The Medical Alphabet. An English textbook in healthcare. Vol. 2.* Matarrese editore. Andria.

Rogers Silvia M. (2014). *Mastering Scientific and Medical Writing: A Self-help Guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.* Springer-Verlag. Berlin Heidelberg.

*(list to be completed)*

<b>1. Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave	<b>2. Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave
<b>3. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave	<b>4. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave
<b>5. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave	<b>6. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave
<b>7. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave	<b>8. Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave
<b>9. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave	<b>10. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b> <b>16.00-18.00</b> Aula G1 Centro Linguistico Nave