

DOTTORATO IN GENETICA, BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE E CELLULARE

CORSO DI LINGUA INGLESE

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA

a.a. 2020-21

Lecturer: Deirdre Kantz (genetics.pavia@gmail.com)

Office Hours: on appointment using MEET or ZOOM.

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. Synchronous online lessons, interactive (using ZOOM or MEET);
2. Assignments (in *class* and online).

The synchronous online 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. 2nd edition.* Springer-Verlag. Berlin Heidelberg.

(list to be completed)

1. Thursday 1st October 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 1

2. Thursday 8th October 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 2

3. Wednesday 15th October 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 3

4. Thursday 22nd October 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 4

5. Wednesday 29th October 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 5

6. Thursday 5th November 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 6

7. Wednesday 12th November 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 7

8. Thursday 19th November 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 8

9. Monday 26th November 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 9

10. Wednesday 3rd December 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 10

11. Wednesday 10th December 2019

17.00-19.00

Lesson 11

12. Wednesday 17th December 2020

17.00-19.00

Lesson 12