Corso di Laurea in
SCIENZA E TECNOLOGIA DEI MATERIALI

Triennale – L30

General information	
Academic subject	*English*
Degree course	*Materials Science and Technology*
Academic Year	*2021-2022*
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	3
Language	*English*
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	*According to teaching calendar*
Attendance	*Not Compulsory*

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Virtual headquarters	
Tutoring (time and day)	*by appointment via email*

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	*Basic knowledge of the salient syntactic, morphological and rhetorical-functional characteristics of scientific prose in English and basic ability, both written and orally, to understand/ discuss in an appropriate form a scientific topic, gained through the re-elaboration and extension of previously acquired language skills.*
Course prerequisites	*An entry level of CEFR level of B1 (or above) is advisable*
Contents	***Functional/lexical content*** *Expressing numbers and basic operations, describing 2- and 3-dimensional figures, defining simple tools: shape, size and use.* *Describing angles, lines and graphs, reading mathematical symbols, equations and formulae.* *Describing position, movement, action and direction of objects in space.* *Describing qualities, including colour, appearance, texture, strength, of materials and substances and simple apparatus.* *Classification, definition and comparison of substances and physical properties.* *Simple instructions, directions, warnings.* *Time and logical sequencing in the description of a process.* *Explaining cause and reason, drawing contrast, difference and similarity.* *Stating probable, hypothetical and theoretical results, suggesting possible cause, effect and result.* *Reporting actions, observations and findings, accounting for results, stating conclusions.* *The main parts of a simple scientific report, organisation of content* ***Morphological/syntactic content*** *To be and to have as main and auxiliary verbs. Impersonal statements with 'it' and 'there'.* *Nouns: countable, uncountable.* *The simple present: to express states, general truths, habits, mathematical concepts.* *The future tense: to signal predictions, intentions and anticipation.* *Adverbs and prepositions of space and movement, manner, means and instruments.*

	Simple statements of comparison and contrast: equal, different and proportional relations. *The possessive genitive: Saxon and 'of' genitive in descriptive statements.* *Use of modals for possibility, probability, deduction, obligation, prohibition, permission.* *The passive voice: present and past tense, by and the agent, agentless passive or thematic focus in instructions, descriptions of processes, observations and deductions.* *Relative clauses: identifying, non-identifying and reduced relative clauses.* *Use of Articles: generalizing, forward and back reference, specificity and uniqueness, common exceptions.* *The present perfect: to focus on events and results.* *The simple past and past perfect: to locate experimental data within a time frame.* *The first, second type conditional: implications and possible adverbials.* *Time sequencing and logical connectors to signal cause, effect and results.*
Books and bibliography	*Grammar reference text: Grammar for Ielts* ***with answers,*** *CUP*
Additional materials	*Handouts, authentic materials (contact teacher)*

Work schedule			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Self-study hours
Hours			
75	*45*		*30*
ECTS			
3			
Teaching strategy	Course activities include the following typologies: • Individual /pair/group exercises and activities aimed at broadening the student's knowledge of core scientific vocabulary common to scientific disciplines • detailed review of grammar appropriate to scientific discourse through specific exercises • exercises aimed at improving pronunciation • exercises and activities aimed at improving the student's ability to recognize, and use the organization specific to scientific texts, passing from sentence level to text level • graded exercises aimed at improving the student's reading speed and ability to pick out the important points of a scientific text in English through analysis of selected brief authentic texts		
Expected learning outcomes			
Basic Knowledge and understanding of:	• *the morpho-syntactic basis of academic prose in English (formal)* • *core scientific vocabulary (formal)* • *classroom language in English (semi-formal)*		

Applying knowledge and understanding (Subject Specific Practical Skills)	• *ability to watch/listen to part of a lesson on a familiar scientific topic in English and summarize the contents in an organized manner.* • *ability to organize a simple report of an experiment carried out by the student during his/her physics studies, using appropriate aids* • *ability to express an opinion on the content of a text about a topic of current scientific interest following the reading or vision of didactic and /or outreach materials*
Soft skills	***Making judgements:*** • *ability to analyse a text in English and judge whether the general level of formality and the content are appropriate to the purpose of the document* ***Transferable Communication skills:*** • *awareness of the importance of organization when writing a text* • *ability to assess and improve own work* • *ability to present an argument/describe a phenomenon in a logical linear concise manner* ***Lifelong learning skills:*** • *the student will learn to be responsible for improving his/her own language skills making efficient use of using appropriate aids*

Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	*A written exam has been experimentally substituted with a series of in itinere written assignments. Students who have actively followed the course and completed the written assignments during the course will be offered the opportunity to gain the 3 credits at the end of the course with a brief in-class final oral test.* *Students who have not followed the course and completed they written assignments must complete and hand in the written assignments* ***at least one week before the date of the oral exam,*** *students who do not meet this deadline will not be admitted to the oral until the next exam date.* *The oral exam lasts about 15 minutes and consists in three phases: general conversation about life as a student and studies etc., questions on the content of audio/written texts on scientific topics chosen amongst those studied, description and explanation of an experiment, chosen by the student which they have carried out in one of the lab courses.*
Evaluation criteria	*Pass/fail*
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	*Ability to reply with reasonable fluency and accuracy to questions about studies.* *A demonstration that the student has understood the content of the audio/video materials and can explain in a logical manner, using appropriate terminology.* *Ability to explain in English with reasonable fluency and accuracy, using appropriate vocabulary and register, and organization, the aim of an experiment done in the laboratory, the physical principles which it investigates, and the results obtained.*