

ENGLISH FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS (LM52)

A.Y. 2022-23

Prof.ssa Raffaella Merlini



LETTORATO CLASSES ARE HELD BY DOTT. MARTIN HARPER

Master's degree in Global politics and international relations - Università di Macerata

OBJECTIVES of the course

- ▶ The course aims at developing an advanced knowledge of the English language (at **C1 level**) in the context of political and economic international relations. Through the consolidation of written and oral skills, and the theoretical and practical analysis of linguistic, textual and rhetorical features of press articles, media news reports, and conversational excerpts, students will acquire a thorough understanding of **communication dynamics** as well as an insight into **negotiation strategies** that are required to operate in **diplomatic milieus**.
- ▶ They will also be enabled to contribute, in a linguistically and culturally effective way, to the drawing up and presentation of **projects** and documents in English **for the purposes of international cooperation**.

COURSE CONTENTS

Three-part structure: **THEORY** – ANALYSIS – COMMUNICATION

THEORY

- ▶ Peace linguistics
- ▶ Oppositional talk: softening and intensifying conflict
- ▶ Verbal politeness
- ▶ World Englishes
- ▶ Compassionate English Communication (CEC)
- ▶ Empathy and its devices
- ▶ Force and Grace in diplomacy
- ▶ The diplomatic negotiation process and language

COURSE CONTENTS

Three-part structure: THEORY – ANALYSIS – COMMUNICATION

ANALYSIS

Identification and discussion of the linguistic, structural, rhetorical and interpersonal features of:

- ▶ video broadcasts (concerning topical themes of international politics)
- ▶ dialogic interactions

COURSE CONTENTS

Three-part structure: THEORY – ANALYSIS – **COMMUNICATION**

COMMUNICATION COMPETENCES

On the **practical** side, the course will develop oral and written communication skills through:

- ▶ Production of written summaries from video clips
- ▶ Production of written projects
- ▶ Written and oral language exercises (linked to the theoretical notions illustrated during the course)
- ▶ Role-playing of diplomatic negotiation scenarios

ASSESSMENT

The **final exam** is made up of 2 parts:

- ▶ written paper
- ▶ oral discussion

Students are required to pass the written paper to be admitted to the oral discussion.

WRITTEN PAPER (90 minutes – 50% of final mark)

English monolingual dictionary are allowed during the exam

WRITTEN SUMMARY (60 min.)

A short video of 3 to 5 minutes will be played three times.

The video will deal with one of the topics covered **by dott. Harper** in his lettorato classes.

WRITTEN PAPER (90 minutes – 50% of final mark)

English monolingual dictionary are allowed during the exam

LANGUAGE EXERCISE (30 min.) belonging to one of the following typologies:

1. recognizing and naming conflict talk strategies in a written text
2. recognizing and naming mitigating devices in a written text
3. reformulating face-threatening utterances through positive and/or negative politeness
4. producing descriptive and evaluative utterances on the basis of a picture
5. identifying feelings and needs from the transcript of a short conversation
6. converting demands into SMART-choice requests
7. writing a conversational exchange on the basis of a diplomatic negotiation scenario

ORAL DISCUSSION (ca. 20 minutes – 50% of final mark)

The oral exam will be conducted on the basis of the following **textbook**:

- ▶ Patricia Friedrich (2016) *English for Diplomatic Purposes*, Multilingual Matters: Bristol; **Introduction, chapters 1-3; 5-7.**

Students will also choose and discuss **one** of the following texts:

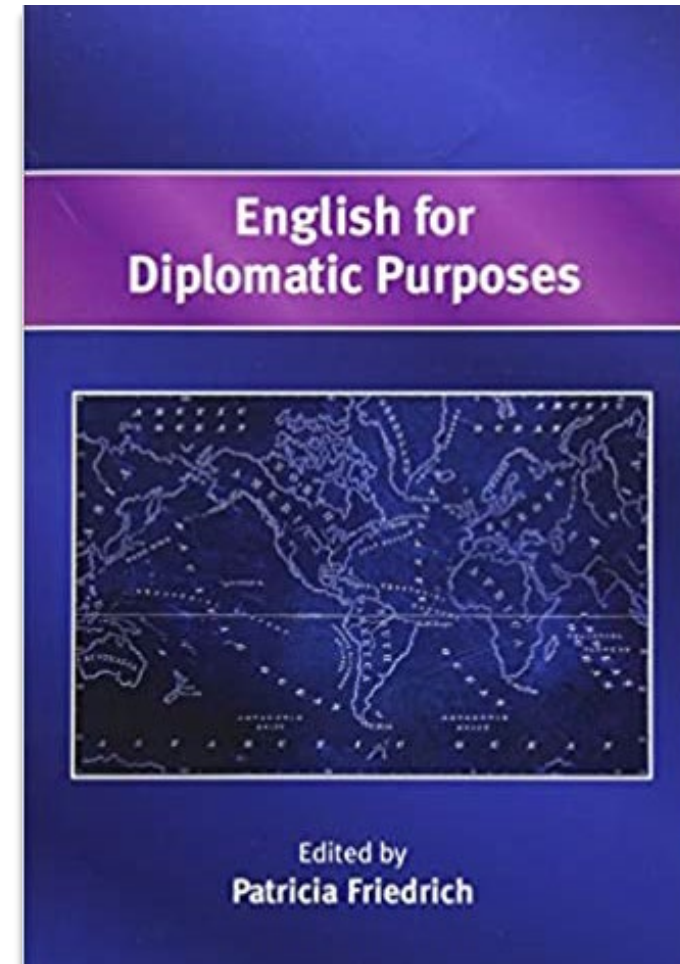
- ▶ Raffaella Merlini (2009) "Seeking asylum and seeking identity in a mediated encounter. The projection of selves through discursive practices", *Interpreting* 11/1, pp. 57-93.
- ▶ Raffaella Merlini (2013) "Changing perspectives: Politeness in cooperative multi-party interpreted talk". In C. Schäffner, K. Kredens, Y. Fowler (eds) *Interpreting in a changing landscape. Selected papers from Critical Link 6*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, pp. 267-283.
- ▶ Raffaella Merlini, Mariadele Gatti (2015) "Empathy in healthcare interpreting: Going beyond the notion of role", *The Interpreters' Newsletter* 20, pp. 139-160.
- ▶ Raffaella Merlini, Christina Schäffner (2020) "Narrating narratives of migration through translation, interpreting and the media" *Cultus, The Journal of intercultural mediation and communication* 13, pp. 3-23.

Patricia Friedrich (2016)
*English for Diplomatic
Purposes, Multilingual
Matters: Bristol.*

**Introduction,
chapters 1-3; 5-7.**

TEXTBOOK

N.B. This is the only text students need to buy.



GROUP PROJECT (OPTIONAL)

adds extra points to the final mark

Each group of students (approx. 6 members) will draw up an original **1000-word DEVELOPMENT AID project**

Detailed information on contents and submission deadline will be provided by **dott. Harper** during his classes.

The project will be assessed as either FAIL, PASS, or EXCELLENT:

- ▶ a FAIL assessment DOES NOT prevent access to the final exam;
- ▶ a PASS assessment will add **1 point** to the final mark;
- ▶ an EXCELLENT assessment will add **2 points** to the final mark.