

DOTTORATO IN GENETICA, BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE E CELLULARE

CORSO DI LINGUA INGLESE

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA

a.a. 2022-23

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

Office Hours: on appointment using 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, you will be sent the link before lessons start);
2. Assignments (in *class* and online);
3. Use of Google Classroom.

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

1. Friday 7th October 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 1	2. Friday 14th October 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 2
3. Friday 4th November 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 3	4. Friday 11th November 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 4
5. Friday 18th November 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 5	6. Friday 25th November 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 6
7. Friday 2nd December 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 7	8. Friday 16th December 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 8
9. Friday 13th January 2023 13.00-15.00 Lesson 9	10. Friday 20th January 2022 13.00-15.00 Lesson 10