

ENGLISH FOR PHYSICS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

Second Term

Fri. 16-19 Room 8 Fisica "Enrico Fermi"

Instructor: Pilar Martinez Benedi

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Office Hours: After class or by appointment.

Moodle: <https://elearning.uniroma1.it/course/view.php?id=7440>

Course Description and Objectives

This is an intermediate level (B1) English Course for students of Physics. According to the Common European Frame of Reference for Languages (CEFR), the B1 Level refers to independent users of language: those who can communicate without great effort, at least within familiar situations including those that are work and study related.

The main goal of this course is to help students access, understand and produce basic Academic and Scientific texts (cv, application forms, websites, scientific articles and handbooks, oral texts.) To that end, we will study and/or review fundamental grammar rules and structures, such as:

Tense revision (present, simple and continuous; present/past perfect simple and continuous; past, simple and continuous; future forms);

Zero, first, second, and third conditionals;

Passive voice;

Relative clauses;

Modal verbs...

We will have a hands-on approach to Grammar. We will study such structures and rules through grammar/vocabulary exercises, and through the reading and discussion of texts (scientific, but not only), both written and oral.

Attendance and Expectations

To be considered "studente frequentante" you need to attend 75% of the classes (i.e., 18 hours out of 24). Only 2 absences are allowed, otherwise you'll be considered "non-frequentante."

Attendance is not compulsory in order to take the exam (as non-frequentante, of course). But, if you do attend I expect you to be punctual, to be quiet, attentive, and respectful in class, and to actively participate in our discussions. I will ask questions to

the class and we will correct and comment the exercises together, preferably in English, but Italian will be allowed too.

Course Materials

I will upload on e-learning the materials we discuss in class.

For non-frequentanti (or for frequentanti seeking a reference text), any English Grammar textbook will do, for example:

English Grammar Framework (B1 or B2), Jennifer Gascoigne, Hammond Gillian

English Grammar in Use for Intermediate Students of English, Raymond Murphy, Cambridge UP.

Any practice book for the PET or equivalent (*Exams Extra Cambridge PET*, Cambridge UP, for example)

You may also download very useful material from bigbang.uniroma1.it (English Exam, Sapienza), including exam samples that are very similar to our final exam.

Final Exam

Final written exam consisting of 30 multiple choice questions, including grammar exercises and reading comprehension. 90 min. exam. Monolingual dictionary allowed.)

(See facsimile at bigbang.uniroma1.it, English Exam Sapienza: Trial Exam. Our exam will not be identical but similar to those!)

The exam will be the same for "frequentanti" and "non frequentanti". The only difference is that "frequentanti" will be able to take the exam during the last class of the course.

Validation of Official Certifications:

If you have an official certification that attests that your level of English is **B1 or more**, I will validate that in lieu of your exam upon registration. Official exams such as PET, First Certificate, IELTS, TOEFL (these last two, depending on score) will be surely validated. If you have a different certificate, or want to make sure that your certification will be accepted, either bring it (or a photocopy) to class, or send me a pic/scan by email, and I'll let you know.

Once you are sure that your certification will be validated, just bring it with you on the date of the exam (verbalizzazione) and I'll register it. (No need to attend the course nor, of course, to attend the course.) Please remember that you will in any case need to register for the exam on Infostud.