

STUDY GUIDE

*ENGLISH LINGUISTICS AND
TRANSLATION*
University of Catania
Department of Humanities

1. IDENTIFYING DATA.	
· Course Name.	English linguistics and translation
· Coordinating University.	University of Catania, Department of Humanities
· Partner Universities Involved.	-
· Course Field(s).	English linguistics and Italian-English / English-Italian translation
· Related Study Programme.	Two-year postgraduate degree course in Comparative Languages and Literatures

· ISCED Code.	[Indicate the International Standard Classification of Education that is used internationally as a reference for organising education programs and related qualifications by levels and fields] ????	
· SDG.	4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 10 (Reduced inequalities)	
· Study Level.	(M, first year)	
· EUNICE Key Competencies	[Indicate the Key Competencies offered by the course.]	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green – strongly • Orange - moderately • Red – partially • Blank cell - not at all 	
	Problem solving	
	Teamworking	
	Communication	
	Self-management	
	Cognitive flexibility	
	Digital competence	
	Technical competence	
	Global intercultural competence	

· Number of ECTS credits allocated.	9
-------------------------------------	---

· Mode of Delivery.	Onsite and online live
· Language of Instruction.	English
· Course Dates.	1 October to mid-December
· Precise Schedule of the Lectures.	Three two-hour classes per week
· Key Words.	Italian-English and English-Italian interlingual translation, language, linguistics
· Catchy Phrase.	All is not lost in translation

· Prerequisites and co-requisites.	- CEFR B2 in English
· Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	20
· Number of EUNICE students that can attend the course per institution	2
· Course inscription procedure(s).	Via EUNICE Platform

2. CONTACT DETAILS.

· Department.	Department of Humanities (DISUM – Dipartimento di Scienze Umanistiche)
· Name of Lecturer.	Iain Andrew HALLIDAY
· E-mail.	iain.halliday@unict.it
· Other Lecturers.	--

3. COURSE CONTENT.

The course sets out to delve into the sociolinguistics of the English language with regard to its spread through the world; it consists of three modules:

MODULO A – English Sociolinguistics

The module aims to present the complexity of the English language from a sociolinguistic point of view with the language's diffusion as a point of departure leading to an analysis of its status in the contemporary period. The various models proposed regarding the spread of the English language will be presented and reference will be made to the language's links with some historical events.

MODULO B – Scots and English and Len Pennie

Closely linked to module A, module B is dedicated to a presentation and analysis of Scots and English in Scotland, dwelling on the languages' social roles and values, inspired by the writer Len Pennie and some of her poems, interviews and social media interventions. In this way we will be able to reflect

on the position of Scots and the English language, on their linguistic and cultural characteristics, and on the social roles these languages can have.

MODULO C – English and Scots Varieties and Translation

Module C is dedicated to an analysis of the poems of Len Pennie in relation to the questions that varieties of Scots and the English language pose from a translation point of view with work in the teaching room dedicated to possible Italian translations.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES.

1) Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge of the vocabulary, morphosyntactic and pragmatic aspects of the English language at C1+ level (CEFR). Conoscere le diverse strategie traduttive e i diversi strumenti utili alla traduzione. Being familiar with the development of the English language and its sociolinguistic aspects. Knowing and understanding the strategies by which the language is linked to the social context and how it influences it even on the emotional level. Understanding how a verbal or multimodal text can be analysed and understood by means of the tools provided by sociolinguistics. Being aware of the main translation strategies and the various instruments useful for translation.

2) Applying knowledge and understanding

Being able to identify the main language items necessary to perform a fruitful text analysis from the sociolinguistic point of view, including those related to the various text types or to the exploitation of emotions. Being able to apply the acquired knowledge to translate texts of various types. Being able to apply the acquired analytical knowledge from the point of view of translation. Being able to apply the acquired knowledge to different types of texts, placing them in a given social context to highlight how the language, together with emotions, can be a tool of persuasion, influence and discrimination.

3) Making judgements

Drawing on the acquired knowledge and skills, being able to autonomously recognise linguistic and semiotic items, also informed by emotions, relevant to the analysis of a text in a given social context.

4) Communication skills

Achievement of the C1+ level competence of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), regarding both written and oral skills.

5) Learning skills

Self-assessment of the acquired language skills; awareness of one's own learning needs and goals; ability to understand and interpret a text in English for professional growth; ability to express one's own thoughts in English in different contexts and for different communicative purposes; ability to use varied sources of information

5. OBJECTIVES.

See 4. above

6. COURSE ORGANISATION.

UNITS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | See 3. above |
| 2. | [Indicate the name of the units and topics of the course] |
| 3. | [Indicate the name of the units and topics of the course] |
| 4. | [Indicate the name of the units and topics of the course] |

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

Set texts

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS.

Lectures with some class participation, limited group work

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD.

Written exam (obligatory for access to the oral exam)

Oral exam

During examination consideration will be taken of the candidate's mastery of the course contents and their acquired competences, their linguistic and lexical accuracy and their ability to present an argument.

There will be two course tests:

MODULE A

The test will be a multiple choice quiz.

MODULES B and C

The test will be based on an oral presentation or a piece of written work on a topic related to the module.

Passing these tests means that students can consider the relative parts of the course to have been passed and they may proceed to the oral exam that consists of an interview on the remaining parts of the course and an interview with the language instructors. Access to the oral exam is dependent on passing the written exam.

Students who choose not to take the course tests will be evaluated by means of the final oral exam on all the topics in the course description.

OBSERVATIONS.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS.

MODULE A

1. Holmes, Janet & Wilson, Nick, 2022, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 6th edition, Abingdon: Routledge

- Chap. 1 What do sociolinguistics study? pp 1–20
- Chap. 4 Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations pp. 109–138
- Chap. 5 National languages, Language policy, and language planning pp. 140–180
- Chap. 6 Regional and social dialects pp. 185–220
- Chap. 9 Language change pp. 287–327
- Interlude: identity in sociolinguistics pp. 329–333
- Chap. 10 Style, context and register pp. 339–385

2. Fox, Susan et. al., *Language in Britain and Ireland*, 3rd edition), Cambridge University Press 2024, Smith, Jennifer et. al., Chapter 6 “Scots and Scottish Standard English” pp. 151–177.

MODULES B e C

3. Carr, David, “Reclaiming Scots as Slang: Some Thoughts on Scottish English – and on Scots”, *Silly Linguistics*, 5 March 2024 (<https://sillylinguistics.com/reclaiming-scots-as-slang> May 2025).

4. Nosowitz, Dan, “How the English Failed to Stamp Out the Scots Language”, *Atlas Obscura*, 28 September 2018 (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/scots-language> May 2025).

5. Pennie, Len, *Poyums*, Edinburgh, Canongate 2024.