OBJECTIVES

General Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students should have acquired a degree of familiarity with Cultural Heritage oriented texts and comprehension skills adequate to tackle a variety of text types at B2 level (Upper-Intermediate*) in the two receptive skills: reading comprehension and listening comprehension. A limited amount of speaking will inevitably be involved although the focal point is placed on the receptive skills.

Students should already be independent language users, but the course will aim to develop their confidence further, especially as it deals with texts that are not often dealt with extensively or in detail in General English classes.

Alongside the specific specialist language element, the students are encouraged to develop an awareness of differences in register, degrees of formality, as well as of linguistic devices which are used to communicate a message effectively, thus developing skills for autonomous life-long learning.

Specific Learning Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of the course, students should have acquired:

- Upper-Intermediate (B2) passive (receptive) understanding of a wide variety of audio and written texts dealing with various aspects and issues relating to Cultural Heritage;

- an awareness of linguistic devices and practices used to structure speech or written texts, be they for an academic or general public audience;

- an ability to identify a text’s purpose or function;

- a greater awareness of both academic and discipline-specific language conventions.

Specific Learning Outcomes – Applied Knowledge, Skills and Competences

By the end of the course students should have acquired:

- an ability to recognize different text types as well as different styles and registers;

- an ability to understand audio or written texts at B2 level, including interviews, extracts from lectures, essays, academic articles or articles from specialist as well as general public press;

- an ability to process information contained in texts from different origins (academic, press, etc.) referring to Cultural Heritage issues/aspects and understand particular aspects and viewpoints and draw conclusions;
- a greater awareness of specialized lexis regarding their field of study;
- an ability to use reading and listening comprehension skills and strategies effectively, in order to exploit authentic resources referring to their specific fields of study;
- an ability to use the acquired skills autonomously with new texts;

TARGET GROUP

Students who started a 3-year degree course in Beni Culturali in or after the academic year 2014/15.

PREREQUISITES

Students should already have acquired at least B1 level competence in English, which can be certified through a recognized qualification or through a placement test.

Students must have access to a pc or mobile device as well as internet connection.

ENROLMENT

The course is open to a maximum of 30 students. Enrolment is through the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo.

CONTENTS

The course will deal with virtually exclusively original materials (exercises and activities) developed from authentic sources (audio, video, written texts) regarding Cultural Heritage, therefore ranging from archaeology, to performing and visual arts, to crafts.

Students will be actively involved in the class by means of exchanging views on specific topics or through group work, in order to develop further their ability to communicate about and to exploit resources and sources, as well as to prepare for the listening or reading task.

A wide variety of comprehension tasks will be set, ranging from summary completion, to gap fills, matching, categorizing, etc.

The course will have a strong international flavour in terms of the origin of the materials and the focus of attention.

TEACHING METHOD

The blended course consists of two components: 17 face-to-face lessons and a companion online Moodle course including consolidation exercises and activities (homework) as well as exercises and activities for the week exclusively online. The resources available online are an integral part of the course as a whole.

Some of the exercises are scorable, others are not. 60% is the minimum score to be achieved on the scorable exercises for them to be considered as completed successfully. A maximum of five attempts is allowed for each scorable exercise.

It will be possible to contact the teacher during the week online by booking an appointment at established times.

TIMETABLE

Four 3-week blocks. In each block, for the first two weeks, two lessons f-2-f lessons a week: one focusing on listening skills and strategies, one focusing on reading comprehension strategies. Students
will be expected to complete a number of consolidation exercises online. For the third week, exercises to be done online. No f-2-f lessons in the third week. Completion of the exercises in one block allows students to access the resources in the following block.

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**ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend at least 75% of the f-2-f lessons and to complete all the resources online. A record will be kept.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Tasks and exercises designed by the teacher and based on authentic audio/visual or written authentic or original resources will be made available during the course. A complete set of activities and exercises to do online.

**ASSESSMENT**

60-minute computer-based examination including three reading passages (tot. 1,800 words max., 25 questions), and three listening passages (2'30” each, 15 questions): 40 questions in total. To pass the exam, students need to achieve a minimum of 60% correct answers in each part. Texts and recordings may be taken from the same sources used to develop materials for the course.

**BONUS**

Regular attendance (minimum 75%) and completion of the resources online (minimum score 60%) give students the following advantage:

- Opportunity to do some exam practice by using sample papers made available at the end of the course, during the week completely online.

(*For more details about what level of competence is expected at B2 General English level see CEFR http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr)