

LETTORATO MAGISTRALE I FIRST SEMESTER 2025-2026

PROGRAMME FOR EAAS/ SLLT LETTORATO MAGISTRALE 1

This course aims to extend students' speaking and writing abilities. All students are expected to participate actively. The course will cover a number of writing skills including, paraphrasing, summary writing and formal/academic essay writing. Public speaking skills involving presentation and debate are also part of the course. Students are expected to complete an assignment in both semesters. Six and twelve credit students take a written examination. Students are expected to reach a minimum level of C1 by the end of the year. Students enrolling in academic year 25 -26 take the lettorato part of the module exam in June 2025.

The Magistrale 1 language module has TWO constituent parts, the test based on the lettorato programme and that of Prof. Plescia.

A maximum of ONE task per student can be corrected during office hours . Office hours must be booked in advance via e-mail and are suspended before and after exams.

As summary writing is taught in progressive stages, coursework reflects this, and students are strongly advised to follow the lessons as course content is closely aligned to exam content. Further information regarding lesson material will be given by lettori at the start of each semester.

Semester 1 module : Reading, Writing and Public Speaking Skills

Course objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Identify details supporting a point of view in academic texts.
2. Identify examples that support a particular interpretation or point of view.
3. Critically evaluate the quality of sources.
4. Summarise the content of a text
5. Take effective notes while reading and exploit these for both oral presentations and written summaries.

Semester 1 assignment: Summary Writing & Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing and summarising skills will be studied as a necessary prelude to academic writing.

Semester 1 assignment: Oral Skills

Public speaking techniques will be reviewed before end of semester class debates.

N.B. All university students display public speaking skills when they take an oral exam or defend their thesis. How good are yours?

Semester 2 Module: Argumentative Academic Writing

The course will guide students towards writing a research based argumentative extended essay with adequately cited secondary sources.

Course objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Produce a strong thesis statement.
2. Use credible sources to try to demonstrate a clear point of view.
3. Produce a well-cited argumentative piece of writing.

Semester 2 assignment: Writing an argumentative essay

Exam Format

Written Exam From June 2026

The final exam will consist of a 3 hour written test. The 3 hour written exam is in two parts:

Part 1 (90 minutes) entails paraphrasing sentences from a text and then summarising the text in a maximum number of words.

Part 2 (90 minutes) is a 350-450 word argumentative essay based on a topic related to the reading plus additional material, a selection of which must be successfully integrated into the essay as you build your argument.

Paraphrasing, summary writing and argumentative essay writing require specific skills which need to be practised. This exam is NOT a general English test and students who are unable to attend should practice the various types of writing taught during the course and are encouraged to bring work to my office hours, to avoid disappointment in the exam.

12 cfu students do both parts, 6 cfu students may choose to take EITHER part 1 or part 2.

A basic explanation and minimal practice material can be found at the top of my CLA page.

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E-learning-exam booking and results:

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