**English for International Relations & Economics, Spring 2025**

**Instructor:** Machili Ifigeneia, mahili@uom.edu.gr

**Office hours:** <https://meet.google.com/nyc-wwai-quw> by appointment

#### **I. Goals of the course**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles of doing research and speaking in public about issues related to International and European studies and to help them develop the terminology in areas of their discipline. Subject areas include International and European Relations and Finance, Foreign Politics and Diplomacy, Political Theories, International Organizations, and the EU.

#### **II. Description of the course**

The course starts with the principles of preparing and presenting a research project orally such as deciding on a topic and justifying its choice, the importance of public speaking, the role of the audience, and ethical issues involved in research. It then moves to more practical considerations like selection & evaluation of sources, their integration in the extended abstract and the oral presentation, composing the oral presentation (i.e. appropriate use of oral language, introductions, conclusions), and its delivery (i.e. non-verbal communication and visual aids). The course also involves analysis and discussion of sample speeches on issues of international politics and economics. Attention is given to the terminology that is used in the model talks and the material taught. The course is intended to be highly interactive with the students actively contributing in the development of their own research and public speaking skills and the terminology that is related to their field of study.

#### **III. Assessment of the course**

Students who take the course have the following two assessment options:

a) 4 assignments leading to an oral presentation of a Research Project (in pairs) & 1 terminology quiz 100%

Short abstract & rationale of RP (presented orally): 10%

Extended abstract of RP 40%

Oral presentation of RP 20% (delivery: 10%, PPT: 10%)

Terminology quiz 30%

b) Final exam 100%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Since two options are given for this course, **it is extremely important** that students decide and REGISTER their names in the first option as early as possible.

ATTENDANCE BONUS: 1 grade will be added to your final grade as bonus if you actively participate (not merely be present) in class.

1. **Continuous assessment option**

A. This option includes one paired research project (70% of the course grade) and one terminology quiz (30%).

The research project will be on a topic in your field of study of economic, political or social interest, where **you will present different aspects of an issue**. You will base your presentation on at least 3 sources (2 internet sources and 1 academic book or 1 article from a scholarly journal). The research project will be completed in stages. Pairs will have to 1) orally present their topic, rationale and abstract tin class. Once this is approved, they will start working on their sources. At a later date they will 2) prepare and hand in their extended abstract (about 1+ pages) and at the end of the semester they will 3) deliver their speech including use of a PPT. The talk itself will be 10 minutes for pairs adding 5 minutes for questions and discussion. 4) On a designated date at the end of the semester students will take a quiz on the terminology covered in the course.

# **B. Final exam option**

The final exam format is as follows:

1. Questions on the comprehension of a given speech
2. Questions on the speech techniques of the speech
3. Questions on theory & the discussed talks
4. Matching terminology with meanings (from discussed talks)
5. Sentence completion with derivatives (from discussed talks)

### IV. Tentative syllabus

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| **Week** | **Dates** | **Lesson content** | **Continuous assessment** |
| **1** | 18 Feb | Preliminaries, Preparing a RP (topic, rationale, short abstract) |  |
| **2** | 25 Feb  | Composing & presenting the speech (incl. PPT), Speech Apprehension, & Listening |  |
| **3** | 4 March | Rhetorical techniques & analysis of “A tale of two political systems” & Why democracy matters” on political systems |  |
| **4** | 11 Μarch | Analysis of«Τhe way we think about work is broken” & “What explains the rise of humans” on human nature & institutions |  |
| **5** | 18 March | Location & evaluation of sources & analysis of “The economics of enough” on types of economics | 1. Oral presentation of RP short abstract & rationale |
| **6** | 25 March  | National holiday no lessons |  |
| **7** | 1 April | Analysis of “The global power shift” & “Who controls the world” on global power |  |
| **8** | 22-26 April | Analysis of Maslow’s “Hierarchy of needs” (reading) & “What makes us work hard” on motivation & workshop on extended abstracts, synthesizing from sources, use of citations |  |
|  *Easter break* |
| **9** | 29 Apr | Analysis of “Address to the radio-Television News Directors Association” & “Duty of care” on the role of the media | 2. Submission of RP extended abstract  |
| **10** | 6 May | Analysis of “Rethinking capitalism”, ‘‘The dirty secret of capitalism’’ on capitalism  |  |
| **11** | 13 May | Terminology quiz & Final exam preparation | 3. Terminology quiz |
| **12** | 20 May  | Analysis of “Why fascism is so tempting” & “How technology can fight extremism and online harassment” on freedom of speech |  |
| **13** | 27 May  | Student presentations of RP | 4. St RP presentations |
| **Make-up week** | 3 June | Student presentations of RP | 4. St RP presentations |

**V. Course material**

1) Coursebook: *Public speaking for university students: principles & practice*, 2015 by Ifigeneia Machili, εκδόσεις Ανικούλα

2) Supplementary material uploaded on eclass