



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Linguistica

1920-1-E2004P003

Learning area

STUDY OF THE MEANS BY WHICH COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Language and communication
- Linguistic variability and universal principles
- Models of linguistic competence
- Corpora and syntactic annotation

Applying knowledge and understanding

- To be able to distinguish linguistic and non-linguistic components of communication
- To be able to analyze linguistic phenomena and to describe their features
- To be able to recognize domains in which theoretical models are relevant for the development of applications (in information extraction and/or automatic translation)

Contents

The course is divided in three modules.

In the first module, students will discuss [some of the fundamental features of language and the differences between language and the animal communication systems](#). In the second module, students will learn some theoretical models of our linguistic competence relative to linguistic sounds, words, sentences and their meanings. In the third module, students will discuss how applications for information extraction and automatic translation make use of theoretical models of linguistic competence.

Detailed program

- The features of language
- Language and communication
- Language and animal communication
- Language and non-verbal cognitive abilities
- Linguistic variability and universal principles
- Linguistics as science
- Models of phonetic and phonological competence
- Models of lexical and morphological competence
- Models of syntactic and semantic competence
- Use of theoretical knowledge and model of competence in the development of applications: information extraction, automatic translation

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

In addition to classroom lectures, part of the teaching will take place through the discussion of scientific articles, audio-visual material and applications.

The material (slides, scientific articles and links to videos and applications) is made available on the e-learning site of the course, so that it can also be used by non-attending students.

Students who regularly attend the course can deepen the knowledge of some course topics with an essay that analyses a scientific article or with an experimental case-study.

Assessment methods

The exam is written, with open questions. The questions aim at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply them to the analysis of linguistic phenomena of everyday communication.

There will be *in itinere* examinations reserved to students who regularly attend the course (two written tests, one at the end of the first module, one at the end of the course). Participating to optional activities contributes to final evaluation.

Upon student's request, the exam can be completed with an oral examination, on all the course topics.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

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- Cecchetto C. (2002). *Introduzione alla Sintassi. La Teoria dei Principi e dei Parametri*. Milano: LED Edizioni (cap. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).
 - Dispense di semantica scaricabili alla pagina internet del corso
 - Diapositive delle lezioni scaricabili alla pagina internet del corso.
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