



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### General Linguistics

2021-1-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
- Communicative competence

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- To be able to distinguish linguistic and non-linguistic components of communication
- To be able to analyse linguistic phenomena and to describe their features

#### Contents

The course is an introduction to linguistics as a scientific discipline: students will analyze the various components of

natural languages and their proprieties, and pragmatics aspects of communication.

## Detailed program

- Linguistics as a scientific discipline
- The properties of language
- Language and communication
- Universal properties and linguistic typology
- Spoken languages and signed languages
- Models of phonetic and phonological competence
- Models of lexical and morphological competence
- Models of syntactic and semantic competence
- Implicit and explicit communication
- Linguistic contact and bilingualism

## Prerequisites

Previous attendance of the course of Philosophy of Language (1st year obligatory course) is required, thus knowledge about the origin and evolution of language is taken from granted. Students lacking such knowledge should contact the instructor.

## 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.

## Assessment methods

The exam is written and comprises:

- —
- a series of exercises,
- open questions.

Multiple choice questions aim at assessing the theoretical knowledge on the topics covered during the course, exercises aim at assessing the ability to apply this theoretical knowledge and open questions evaluate the ability to critically reflect upon the arguments of the course.

---

There will be *in itinere* examinations reserved to students who regularly attend the course (two written tests).

Upon student's request, the exam can be completed with an oral examination that will increase or decrease the mark obtained in the written part up to 3 points. The oral exam will start from the discussion of the written test and will cover all the topics discussed in class during the course.

The modality of such exam will be updated in accordance with the rules for COVID-19 emergency.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

References will be available on the e-learning site of the course before the class will start.

---