UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Linguistics

2122-1-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 linguist and non-linguistic components of communication
- To be able to analyse 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, automatic translation, conversational agents)

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 some pragmatics aspects of communication. We will discuss applicative domains such as conversational agents and digital devices for the enhancement of linguistic abilities.

Detailed program

- Linguistics as a scientific discipline
- The properties of language
- Language and communication
- Universal properties and linguistic typology
- Models of phonetic and phonological competence
- Models of lexical and morphological competence
- Models of syntactic and semantic competence
- Implicit and explicit communication
- Domains of application

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.

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19-related restrictions are imposed.

Assessment methods

The exam is written and comprises:

- multiple choice questions,
- 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.

The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers and of the exercises, the ability to argue, synthesize, create links, and critically read the reality.

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.

Slides will be available on the class webpage.