



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy of Language

2122-1-E2004P002

Learning area

Study of the means by which communication takes place

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Distinctive features of human language and animal communication systems
- Origin and evolution of language
- Relation between language and society
- Theoretical and experimental approaches to the relation between language and thought
- Linguistic relativity: the influence of specific linguistic structures on non-linguistic cognition

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Identifying lexical and structural ambiguities
- Critical reading of scientific articles
- Assessment, synthesis and critical evaluation of theoretical debates

Contents

This class adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the debate about the origin and evolution of language, and its relationship with thought, with notions of evolutionary biology, philosophy of mind and of language, and linguistics.

Detailed program

- The distinctive features of human language.
- Animal communication systems.
- The presence of components of human language in other species
- Homo sapiens and other human forms.
- The evolution of language.
- The parameters of language variation.
- Language and its relationship with biology and society.
- Language and cognition.
- Language and categorization.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Teaching methods

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19-related ____

Assessment methods

The exam is written, with open questions _____

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

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

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and

students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The information on teaching material will be posted on the class website by the beginning of the academic year.
