



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Language

2122-3-E4001N091

Learning objectives

Located on the third and final year of the studies, the course aims to complete the theoretical training of students by providing the notion of “language” both as research object and as tool of analysis of social phenomena.

Knowledge and understanding

Alongside the knowledge of the main perspectives that make up the study of language in the social interactions and in various social contexts, the course aims to promote understanding of language as a practical resource and object of empirical research.

Applying knowledge and understanding

The ability to apply concepts and theories on the use of language in the analysis of contemporary social phenomena is one of the primary goals of the course.

Contents

The language as an institution, structure, agency, social interaction. The linguistic turn. membership categories, discourse and ideology. Language and knowledge. Language and social practices.

Detailed program

Starting from the classical conception of language as a social institution and the implications of the linguistic turn,

the course provides an overview of the main theoretical issues (structure, action, inequality, discrimination, social membership, power, discourse, ideology) addressed by contemporary sociology of language. Subsequently the attention is given, in particular, to the study of language in relation to issues such as: social interaction; knowledge of the social reality; social practices; the constitution of communities of practice; ritual; the use of language in professional, expert and amateur contexts

Prerequisites

Ability to understand and analyze the main forms of written text and basic knowledge of the sociology of culture and communication.

Teaching methods

Teaching lessons; presentation and discussion of readings by students.

Assessment methods

Oral examination.

Textbooks and Reading Materials
