



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Filosofia della Mente, Logica e Lingue Naturali

2122-2-E2401P006

Learning area

Learning area no. 3. Inter-disciplinary knowledge

Learning objectives

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- Distinctive features of human language and animal communication systems
 - Principal theories about the origin and evolution of language
 - Theoretical and experimental approaches to the relationship between language and thought

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

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.
- Homo sapiens and other human species.
- 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

Assessment methods

The exam is written, and it comprises forced choice questions, open questions, and an exercise.

The forced choice questions aim at ascertaining the effective acquisition of theoretical notions; open questions require the ability to assess, synthesize and evaluate theoretical debates, and to critically read scientific articles; the exercise consists in the syntactic representation of an ambiguous sentence.

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

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

Moro, Andrea (2015). I confini di Babele. Il cervello e il mistero delle lingue impossibili. Bologna: Il Mulino (pp. 7-232).

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..
