



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Laboratory 4

2223-3-E4001N104

Learning objectives

This workshop has been designed to improve the ability and capacity of discourse organization and expression, both orally and verbally. In this context, the term discourse means a set of descriptions, interpretations, comments and reasonings containing an explicit or implicit thesis. The workshop is focused on the organization of a discourse, its mechanisms and its communication in public.

Particular importance is given to the public dimension of a discourse: it is produced by someone (the sender), it is addressed to somebody (the receiver) and it is possibly expressed by the sender and the receiver in presence of a public.

Contents

Discourse organization in the classical rhetoric; argumentation theory and theoretical models of the argumentation; models of discourse analysis and application of argumentation theories.

Detailed program

The structure of the workshop comprises 8 lessons (3 hours each).

1. *First lesson*: course overview, introduction to classical discourse organization; practical.
2. *Second lesson*: organised discourse, audience and preliminary agreements; practical.
3. *Third lesson*: introduction to the new argumentation, practical.
4. *Fourth lesson*: chains of equivalence, practical and model applications.
5. *Fifth lesson*: Toulmin's argumentative model, practical.

6. *Sixth lesson*: role playing (simulation of a debate in presence).
7. *Seventh lesson*: analysis of the rhetoric strategies and argumentative models produced by students during the previous lesson
8. *Eighth lesson*: final evaluation

Prerequisites

Preliminary knowledge is not required.

Teaching methods

The workshop is based on a set of theoretical and practical lessons. The argumentation models linked to the classical and the new rhetoric will be presented during the first lessons. These models are particularly focused on the analysis of the main parts of discourse, on the relationship between form and contents of a discourse and its intended audience, and lastly on the argumentation, its design and its application within a discourse.

The workshop will also comprise practical activities, in order to achieve the skills necessary for a good discourse design and presentation. The practical activities, tailored for the direct involvement of the students, are structured to improve interactions, active participation and dissertation. Students are encouraged into little groups activities and role playing. Through these exercises is possible to have direct experiences of the meanings and implications related to “discourse organization” and “organized discourse”.

Assessment methods

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation during the lessons and there will be a final exam to assess the acquired skills related to discourse organization and the application of the argumentative models.

While there won't be midterm exams, during the lessons it is mandatory for the students to actively participate, as this will influence the final evaluation. During the **exercises**, the students will be split in small groups and they will be individually evaluated in the basis of the:

- constructive *collaboration* in reaching the shared goal;
- *application* of the methods and the notions explained by the teachers;
- *correct use* of the discursive materials provided;
- ability to *summarize* all the various argumentative positions within the group;
- capacity to *argue* through the construction of an effective organized speech.

The **final exam** will provide an evaluation of the skills needed to apply the main concepts expressed during the workshop and the argumentative models, especially in an analytical key.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Goffman E., *Forms of Talk*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1981.

De Lillo A., Navarini G., *Argomentazione e retorica*, handout

Further bibliography and materials for the support of the activities will also be provided in the classroom

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
