UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy of Language

2324-1-E2004P002

Learning area

1. Study of the means by which communication takes place

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Language and communication
- What is explicitly said and what is implicitly communicated in a conversational exchange
- Theoretical and experimental approaches to the relation between language and thought

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Assessment, synthesis and critical evaluation of theoretical debates
- Awareness of implicit contents in language
- Critical reading of scientific articles

Contents

The first part of the course is dedicated to the relationship between language and communication, and in particular we will investigate how, during a conversational exchange, speakers can communicate much more than what they literally say. The second part of the course focusses on the relationship between language and thought: We will investigate if, and to what extent, speaking a certain language may impact on conceptualization and on behaviour.

Detailed program

Language and communication
Explicit and implicit
Semantics and pragmatics
Figurative language
Language and thought
Experimental studies that investigate whether particular linguistic expressions impact on thought

Prerequisites

Some of the topics introduced during the course of Linguistics, compulsory exam of the first semester, are taken for granted.

Teaching methods

Besides traditional lessons dedicated to the transmission of theoretical notions, the teaching methods include the discussion of scientific papers, and to the critical analysis and discussion of case studies.

Students who attend lessons with assiduity may deepen some topics of the course, with exercises and essays.

Assessment methods

The exam is written, with multiple choice questions, open questions, and exercises. The oral exam is upon students' request. Regularly attending students may do exercises during the semester, and write an essay on the topics related to the teaching. These exercises and essays might concur to the final evaluation of the exam.

Even if the course is taught in Italian, iInternational students may ask for textbooks in English, and also take the exam in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Teaching resources will be indicated on the e-learning page.

Although this course is held in Italian, for international students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Sustainable Development Goals