

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Linguistics

2425-1-E2004P003

Learning area

1. STUDY OF THE MEANS BY WHICH COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Language and communication
- · Linguistic variability and universal principles
- Models of linguistic competence
- Communicative competence

Applying knowledge and understanding

- To be able to distinguish linguist and non-linguistic components of communication
- To be able to analyse linguistic phenomena and to describe their features
- To be able to recognize domains in which theoretical models are relevant for the development of applications (in information extraction, automatic translation, conversational agents)

Contents

The course is an introduction to linguistics as a scientific discipline: students will analyze the various components of natural languages and their proprieties. We will discuss applicative domains such as conversational agents and digital devices for the enhancement of linguistic abilities.

Detailed program

- · Linguistics as a scientific discipline
- The properties of language
- Language and communication
- Universal properties and linguistic typology
- Models of phonetic and phonological competence
- Models of lexical and morphological competence
- Models of syntactic and semantic competence
- Implicit and explicit communication
- Domains of application

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Teaching methods

The teaching will be mainly delivered as in-person lecture-based classes (transmission of content), during which students are encouraged to participate actively. In addition, some topics will be covered with the discussion of scientific articles and the viewing and commentary of short movies. Experts in digital interface development will participate during some classes and describe the development of applications for language training that make use of therotical models of language competence. All the material (lecture notes, scientific articles, interventions by specialists and information on the availability of videos) is made available on the course's e-learning site, so that it can also be used by non-attending students. Indicatively, there will be 46 hours of in-person lecture-based classes and 10 hours of interactive lessons.

The course is taught in Italian.

Assessment methods

The exam is written and comprises:

- multiple choice questions
- · a series of exercises
- · open questions

Multiple choice questions aim at assessing the theoretical knowledge on the topics covered during the course, exercises aim at assessing the ability to apply this theoretical knowledge and open questions evaluate the ability to critically reflect upon the arguments of the course.

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

Upon student's request, the exam can be completed with an oral examination that will increase or decrease the mark obtained in the written part up to 3 points. The oral exam will start from the discussion of the written test and will cover all the topics discussed in class during the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

References will be available on the e-learning site of the course before the class will start.

Slides will be available on the class webpage.

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

QUALITY EDUCATION