UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology of Communication

2425-1-E2005P004

Learning area

Acquisition of practical and theoretical knowledge and functional techniques for the profession of interpreter and translator between spoken and signed languages, including in international settings.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Students will gain the theoretical foundations of the discipline and will handle the specific terminology;

Applying knowledge and understanding
Students will be able to reflect critically on communication processes and sensorial cultural constructions.

Contents

Starting from an idea of communication as a multimodal and multisensorial mode of human interconnection, the course proposes a critical reflection on the semiotic resources and on sensorial ways that human beings use in their communicative acting and interacting, according to different historical and cultural patterns.

Detailed program

The first part of the course is devoted to a presentation of the theoretical and methodological foundations of

anthropology of communication along the two lines of ethnolinguistics (intertwining of linguistic categories, conceptual categories and experience) and communication ethnography (uses and pragmatic aspects of words and linguistic acts); the second part consists of an analysis of ethnographic cases drawn from different contexts representative of the close relationship between communication, senses and culture.

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching methods

The course adopts the following teaching methods:

- didactic delivery (lectures): 36 hours
- interactive teaching (classroom discussions and exercises): 7 hours

Assessment methods

Oral examination. The examination consists of a colloquium on the contents of the course, and will evaluate the student's critical and argumentative capacity. Results will be: insufficient in case of a lack or incorrect critical analysis of the texts; sufficient in case of possession of a basic knowledge and understanding of the specific lines of research and analysis of anthropology of communication; good in case of expressive ability and knowledge of the texts; very good in case of excellent expressive and critical ability, together with in-depth knowledge of the texts.

Students who would like further clarifications may contact the professor by e-mail and/or request a meeting. The teacher will also be available to answer students' questions at the beginning and end of each lesson.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The following textbooks, which may be partly replaced with a selection of articles in English (just in case the student cannot master reading in Italian at an adequate level):

1. Finnegan R., Comunicare, Utet università, 2008
2. Biscaldi A., Matera V., Antropologia della comunicazione, Carocci, 2017.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES