UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ethnolinguistics

2425-2-E2001R004

Course title

Introduction to ethnolinguistics

Topics and course structure

This course provides an introduction to ethnolinguistics, a discipline whose object of study is the vast yet fascinating topic of the relationship between languages and cultures.
After a first part devoted to theoretical and methodological assumptions and the history of the discipline, the course will focus on some specific areas, such as the relationship between space, environment and linguistic structures, the linguistic expression of the relationship between subjectivity and alterity and linguistic politeness.
The topic of the relationship between orality and writing (with a special focus on the writing systems of Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese) will also be covered.

Objectives

The course aims to provide the theoretical and methodological tools to understand and analyze the relationship between languages and cultures and linguistic variation. In particular, students will acquire:

- the theoretical foundations of ethnolinguistics
- the methodologies of ethnolinguistic analysis, with particular reference to the study and description of linguistic data

Methodologies

15 2-hour lectures held in the in-presence delivery mode;
10 2-hour lectures held in delivery mode in the initial part that is aimed at engaging students interactively in the later part; these lectures are held in-presence;
3 2-hour lectures held in delivery mode remotely.

Online and offline teaching materials

The materials presented in class form an integral part of the examination program and will be made available on this page during the course.

Programme and references

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The topic of the relationship between orality and writing (with a special focus on the writing systems of Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese) will also be covered.

Cardona, Giorgio Raimondo (2006). Introduzione all'etnolinguistica. Torino, Utet.
Da Milano, Federica (2023). Coscienza e linguaggio. L'espressione linguistica della soggettività. Milano, Raffaello Cortina Editore.

Assessment methods

The examination consists of a compulsory written test consisting of open-ended questions. The questions will be evaluated on the basis of the following assessment criteria: relevance to the question, terminological rigor, ability to apply theory to the description of linguistic data. Candidates who pass the written test with a full sufficiency (at least 18/30) will be able to validate the grade immediately or, if they wish, they can take a supplementary oral test, consisting of a discussion of the written paper and questions on topics given in class that were not covered in the written paper. The assessment of the supplementary oral test will be based on the same criteria as the written test, with the addition of the following additional criteria: argumentation skills and autonomy in constructing discourse

Office hours

By appointment and online: mail to

federica.damilano@unimib.it

Programme validity

Programs are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES