



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Sociologia del Linguaggio

2425-3-E4001N091

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#### Learning objectives

The course examines language as an object of research and as a tool for the analysis of social phenomena.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired a solid critical understanding of:

- the main approaches to the study of language in interaction and different social contexts;
- the use of language as a practical resource and object of empirical research;
- the influence of gender, social class, age and processes of racialization on the production and use of language and discourse in everyday contexts.

In addition, students will be able to:

- apply concepts and theories on the use of language in the analysis of contemporary social and discursive phenomena;
- intervene critically in key debates in the sociology of language;
- incorporate the topic into their future research projects, both in theoretical methodological and empirical terms.

#### Contents

The course provides students with an introduction to the main theoretical and methodological reflections on language in the social sciences, from the linguistic turn to critical discourse analysis. It examines the relationship between language and knowledge, social practices, power and ideology. In particular, the course considers how issues of gender, age, class and race have transformed language into an important terrain of conflict and negotiation in contemporary societies.

## Detailed program

The first part of the course provides an overview of the principal theoretical issues (structure, action, inequality, distinction, power, discourse, ideology) and methodological approaches (such as ethnomethodology, critical discourse analysis, and the cultural-materialist approach to the study of key words) at the centre of the sociology of language. In addition, the course examines the study of language in relation to lexical use, social interaction, social knowledge, and social practices. The second part of the course is devoted to an in-depth study of contemporary language as a field of conflict and negotiation. In particular, the course addresses the impact of issues of gender, age, class and racism on the transformation and diversification of everyday language in different social contexts.

## Prerequisites

There are no special requirements, but it is desirable that students have a good grounding in the notions and analytical approaches that characterise the sociology of cultural and communication processes.

## Teaching methods

The 56-hour course will consist of the following two teaching methods:

- didactic delivery (approximately 60% of the course), including lectures with the use of Power Point and the projection of audio-visual material;
- interactive teaching (approximately 40% of the course), including student discussion of readings and videos shown in class, individual and group classroom exercises; individual and group presentations on topics related to the course.

In addition, approximately 30% of the didactic delivery (up to a maximum of 12 hours) will be conducted remotely, including through the assignment of readings and audio-visual material.

## Assessment methods

Course evaluation will be by written exam based on the texts connected with the course programme. In addition, attendance and participation in lectures and classroom activities (discussion of readings and debates on course-related issues) will be assessed.

Assessment criteria: understanding of the readings; clarity, precision and completeness in the discussion of material; the ability to make connections between the various topics; the ability to apply the theories and perspectives from the readings to contemporary social phenomena.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

The main reading materials will be contained in a photocopy handout "Sociologia del linguaggio a. a. 2024-2025" which will be available from the Fronteretro photocopy shop in Viale Sarca 191 from the state of the course. The shop's website provides details on opening hours and contact details for any request for home delivery.

- a choice of one of 6 articles on a course theme, available electronically through Milano Bicocca library (titles to be confirmed)

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES

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