UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Applied Linguistics

2526-3-E2001R031

Course title

Applied Linguistics

Topics and course structure

The course is dedicated to Intercultural Pragmatics, the branch of linguistics that studies cultural norms—usually implicit—whose observance is one of the key conditions for effective communication. After exploring the relationship between language and culture, the course will focus on major pragmatic phenomena: ambiguity and vagueness, speech acts, the cooperative principle, politeness, conversation structure, deixis, linguistic implicatures—including the use of irony.

It will be shown that, just as every language has its own morphosyntactic and phonological rules, it also has its own pragmatic rules. Consequently, applying the pragmatics of one's first language when communicating in another language may lead to misunderstanding and other social “incidents.”

Consistent with its applied nature, the course includes the presentation of real case studies, as well as a methodological section illustrating techniques for collecting data to analyze the pragmatic competence of learners of Italian as a second language (L2).

Objectives

Through this course, and with consistent and active participation in the lessons, the following learning outcomes are intended to be promoted:

Knowledge of the main pragmatic phenomena

Understanding of the relationship between language and culture

Ability to relate different types of knowledge and models

Ability to apply knowledge and models to real linguistic data

Ability to analyze case studies

Ability to design a simple protocol for collecting pragmatic data

Methodologies

Language of instruction:
Italian

Teaching methods:
The lessons will be primarily lecture-based (DE – Direct Education), although moments of interactive teaching (DI – Interactive Education) are always encouraged by the instructor.

Types of learning activities:
Lectures and in-class exercises supervised by the instructor.

Part of the course will be delivered remotely, according to the following breakdown:

20 two-hour lessons delivered in person

8 two-hour lessons delivered online

Online and offline teaching materials

The materials presented during the lessons are an integral part of the exam syllabus and will be made available on the e-learning platform.

Programme and references

Camilla Bettoni. Usare un'altra lingua. Guida alla pragmatica interculturale. Editori Laterza. 2006.

Elena Nuzzo. Imparare a fare cose con le parole. Richieste, proposte, scuse in italiano lingua seconda. Guerra edizioni. 2019.

Assessment methods

Oral Exam (with the exception of the two June sessions, see below)

During the oral exam, the following will be assessed:

Knowledge of the topics covered in the syllabus

Ability to apply theoretical models and frameworks to real-world data

Skill in arguing and justifying the solutions provided to the questions asked

Use of appropriate specialized vocabulary

Grading scale (out of 30 points):

Insufficient (0–17)
Poor preparation on the main topics covered in the course and its bibliography; very limited and poorly independent argumentation, analysis, and critical thinking skills; inadequate ability to connect theory and practice or identify relevant links between texts and course topics; inaccurate expression and misuse of disciplinary terminology.

Sufficient – Fairly Sufficient (18–23)
Generic preparation, with uncertainties or gaps on various topics in the syllabus; argumentation, analysis, and critical thinking somewhat limited and not fully autonomous; difficulties in connecting theory and practice and identifying relevant links between texts and course themes; only partially accurate expression and use of disciplinary vocabulary.

Good (24–27)
Adequate preparation on the main topics in the syllabus, though not always in-depth on more specific issues; generally sound argumentation, analysis, and critical thinking, though not always precise or independent; fair ability to connect theory and practice and identify relevant links between texts and course themes; mostly correct expression and use of disciplinary terminology.

Very Good – Excellent (28–30 cum laude)
Comprehensive and in-depth preparation on all course topics; well-structured, independent argumentation, analysis, and critical thinking; strong ability to connect theory and practice and to identify relevant links between texts and course topics; clear, accurate expression and full command of disciplinary terminology.

The exam will be written only in the two June sessions.
The written test will assess:

- knowledge of the syllabus topics
- the ability to apply theoretical models and frameworks to real-world data
- the ability to argue the solutions provided to the questions
- the use of appropriate specialized vocabulary
  The written test will include 1-2 open-ended questions and 4-5 questions requiring short, precise answers based on analysis of the materials provided.

Office hours

Please contact the instructor via email to schedule an appointment (federica.cominetti1@unimib.it).

Programme validity

The syllabi are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Giorgia Mannaioli

Sustainable Development Goals

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