UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Foundations of Linguistics

2526-1-E1902R005

Course title

Introduction to Linguistics

Topics and course structure

The course aims to provide students with the essential tools for the scientific study of human language and historical-natural languages. Since it is an introductory course, no prior knowledge of the topic is required. The semiotic foundations of language and the concepts of "language" and "language" will be discussed first, with the aim of illustrating what distinguishes human language from other languages; what languages ??are, how they can vary across space, society, and cultures; and how languages ??can be classified genealogically. Ample space will then be devoted to graphematics and the various writing systems of the world's languages. The central part of the course will be devoted to the various levels of linguistic analysis and the related study methodologies: phonetics and phonology (including the description and use of the International Phonetic Alphabet); morphology; syntax; semantics, lexicon, and pragmatics. Finally, the diversity of the world's languages ??will be addressed and how they can be classified from a typological point of view.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will have acquired a knowledge of the key moments in the history of linguistic thought and the main theoretical paradigms of modern linguistics. They will have acquired the basic concepts and tools of linguistic analysis; they will also be able to use the appropriate terminology to study and describe the different areas of language (phonetics and phonology, morphology and lexicon, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics), primarily from a synchronic perspective. They will be familiar with the classification of the world's languages ??into families and groups; they will also have acquired notions of linguistic typology and linguistic

universals. Finally, they will be aware of the various branches and most recent developments in the discipline.

Methodologies

Language of instruction:
The course is taught in Italian.

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

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

Berruto G., Cerruti M., *La linguistica. Un corso introduttivo*, Novara, UTET, **any edition**
Slides provided by the instructor
Other materials made available by the instructor on the university e-learning platform

Assessment methods

Written Exam
The written exam consists of 6–8 questions (1 HOUR). These may include:

EXERCISES (responses to simple questions requiring the application of specific principles or techniques);

OPEN QUESTIONS OR MULTIPLE CHOICHE QUESTIONS.

Office hours

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

Programme validity

The syllabi are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS