UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Linguistics

2526-1-E2006P003

Learning area

1: Linguistic and communicative processes and related cultural contexts.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Language and communication.
- Linguistic variability and universal principles.
- Models of linguistic competence.
- Communicative competence.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- To be able to distinguish linguist and non-linguistic components of communication.
- To be able to analyse linguistic phenomena and to describe their features.
- To be able to recognize domains in which theoretical models are relevant for the development of applications (in information extraction, automatic translation, conversational agents).

Autonomy of judgment

- Development of the ability to critically analyze linguistic phenomena and to make connections between different linguistic issues and theories. Independence of judgment will be encouraged and assessed not only through exams, but also through presentations and reports on scientific articles, as well as through the critical use of artificial intelligence.

Communication skills

- Development of the ability to communicate clearly—both orally and in writing—information, ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences in various educational and professional contexts, as well as the ability to identify inconsistencies or inadequacies in communication across different media. These skills will be assessed through written exams and classroom discussions.

Learning skills

- The structure of the course enables students to acquire theoretical knowledge and critical skills necessary to continue learning through the ongoing professional development required in the workplace. The learning skills acquired will be assessed during exams and through various forms of classroom interaction.

Contents

The course is an introduction to linguistics as a scientific discipline: students will analyze the various components of natural languages and their proprieties. We will discuss applicative domains such as conversational agents and digital devices for the enhancement of linguistic abilities.

Detailed program

? Linguistics as a scientific discipline
? The properties of language
? Language and communication
? Universal properties and linguistic typology
? Models of phonetic and phonological competence
? Models of lexical and morphological competence
? Models of syntactic and semantic competence
? Implicit and explicit communication
? Domains of application

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Teaching methods

The teaching will be mainly delivered as in-person lecture-based classes (transmission of content), during which students are encouraged to participate actively. In addition, some topics will be covered with the discussion of scientific articles and the viewing and commentary of short movies. Experts in digital interface development will participate during some classes and describe the development of applications for language training that make use of theoretical models of language competence. All the material (lecture notes, scientific articles, interventions by specialists and information on the availability of videos) is made available on the course's e-learning site, so that it

can also be used by non-attending students. Indicatively, there will be 46 hours of in-person lecture-based classes and 10 hours of interactive lessons.
The course is taught in Italian.

Assessment methods

The exam is written and comprises:

? multiple choice questions
? a series of exercises
? open questions

Multiple choice questions aim at assessing the theoretical knowledge on the topics covered during the course, exercises aim at assessing the ability to apply this theoretical knowledge and open questions evaluate the ability to critically reflect upon the arguments of the course.

The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers and of the exercises, the ability to argue, synthesize, create links, and critically read the reality.

During the course, students may read a scientific article, write a brief summary of no more than two pages, and present it in class. The article must be approved by the instructor. This activity contributes up to a maximum of 3 points toward the final exam grade

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- G.F. Arcodia & A. Panunzi (a cura di) (2023) *Linguistica. Introduzione alle scienze del Linguaggio*, Pearson.
- Cecchetto C. (2002). *Introduzione alla Sintassi. La Teoria dei Principi e dei Parametri*. Milano: LED Edizioni (cap. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).
- Lecture slides and course materials available for download on the course webpage.
  Slides will be available on the class webpage.
  Teaching resources will be indicated on the e-learning page.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION