



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Sordocecità e List

2526-1-E2007P005

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#### Learning area

I. Learning area: Acquisition of language skills in LIS, LIST and Italian

#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and Understanding*

- Knowledge of the modalities of human language, with particular reference to the comparison between spoken languages, visual sign languages, and tactile LIS.
- Understanding of the main processes of language processing across different sensory modalities.
- Knowledge of research methodologies applied to the study of spoken and signed languages, with specific attention to deafblindness.
- Production skills in the interaction with a deafblind person.

##### *Applying Knowledge and Understanding*

- Apply theoretical knowledge to the analysis of studies on language in spoken languages, sign languages, and tactile LIS.
- Interpret research data and findings while taking into account the linguistic and sensory specificities of deafblindness.
- Use the acquired concepts to understand bilingualism and language access across visual, auditory, and tactile modalities.

##### *Making Judgements*

- The ability to critically evaluate theoretical models, experimental data, and methodological approaches related to language processing in signed and tactile languages.

- Awareness of the linguistic and cognitive specificities of deaf and deafblind individuals within an inclusive and intercultural perspective.

### *Communication Skills*

- Present theoretical concepts clearly and in a structured manner.
- Use appropriate and accessible communication strategies, with attention to the visual and tactile dimensions of communication.

### *Learning Skills*

- The ability to engage in autonomous study through the critical analysis of scientific texts and research materials.
- Tools to understand and interpret studies on human language across different sensory modalities.

## **Contents**

- Deafblindness: detailed overview of the clinical and demographic profile, in Italy and worldwide
- History and culture of the Deafblind community
- Communication methods and technological innovations; socio-haptic communication; ProTactile
- Assistive technologies and devices for independent living
- Code of ethics and professional conduct of the interpreter-guide
- Comparison between LIS and LISt; linguistic analysis of LISt
- Comparison between LIS, LISt, socio-haptic communication, and ProTactile

## **Detailed program**

- Course presentation and examination format, Q&A
- History and cognitive studies on touch
- Introduction to the concept of deafblindness, the Deafblind community, and demographic data on the Deafblind population
- History of Deafblind individuals: women, Helen Keller, Sabina Santilli, Barbara Verna
- Legislation and advocacy/support associations
- Deafblindness: classification based on causes and age of onset
- Usher syndrome, CHARGE syndrome, ageing
- Main communication systems used with and by Deafblind people
- In-depth study of socio-haptic communication and ProTactile
- Innovative technologies and devices for independent living
- First approach to a Deafblind person: rules of conduct
- Guiding and orientation techniques, with practical exercises
- Comparative linguistics of LIS and LISt
- Changes in formational parameters in LISt
- Signing space and spatial positioning
- Feedback
- Numbers
- Adverbs
- Interrogative sentences
- Conditional sentences
- Deixis
- Disambiguation techniques (cues)

- Code of ethics and professional conduct of the interpreter-guide  
Practical exercises

## Prerequisites

Basic competences in LIS

## Teaching methods

Lectures  
Practical exercises  
Video observation and related reflections

## Assessment methods

The exam will be oral and will be divided into two parts: an assessment of the theoretical content through five questions on the topics covered during the course, and a practical component (interaction in LIS, approach to a Deafblind person, and guiding techniques)

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

- D. Coppola - "Toccare con mano. Strategie comunicative nel mondo della sordocecità"- Uninova. 2026
- M. Mazzeo. Tatto e linguaggio- il corpo delle parole. 2003
- Cardinaletti A., Cecchetto C., Donati A.- Grammatica, lessico e dimensioni di variazioni nella LIS- 2011
- Haptic Signals as Part of Interpreter Services for Deafblind People. Historical and Developmental Perspectives from a Norwegian Context
- Eli Raanes, Queen Maud University College, Trondheim, Norway, 2023
- A preliminary description of haptics in Italian social-haptic communication: a phonological perspective- Laura Volpato (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), FEAST, volume 5, 2023
- Social-Haptic Communication. History, Research and Applications- Riitta Lahtinen, Russ Palmer, Edizioni Ca' Foscari, collana "Lingua dei segni e sordità", 02/2026
- Haptics signals – [www.spreadthesign.com](http://www.spreadthesign.com)

Any additional materials will be published on the e-learning page associated with the course.

## Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

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