UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

LIS Culture (Theatre, Poetry, Cinema)

2627-3-E2005P023

Learning area

III. Learning area: Acquisition of socio-cultural knowledge and skills aimed at interlinguistic and intercultural communication and mediation in the context of deafness

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
• Knowledge of the main cultural expressions of the Deaf community (theatre, poetry in LIS, signed songs, Visual Vernacular, Deaf art)
• Understanding of the link between sign language and the cultural identity of the Deaf community
• Knowledge of the forms of literature and visual narration specific to LIS and their aesthetic and linguistic characteristics
• Understanding of the role of Deaf culture in the development and enhancement of the profession of LIS interpreter
• Knowledge of the principles of critical analysis of Deaf artistic works, including metaphors, nuances and cultural motivations
Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
• Analysis and interpretation of artistic and literary texts in LIS (poetry, performance, theatre productions)
• Application of acquired knowledge to improve the quality of translation and interpreting in LIS
• Ability to appropriately enhance and convey cultural and artistic nuances in language mediation situations
• Conscious use of critical tools to evaluate and contextualise the productions of Deaf culture
• Ability to design and perform individual performances in LIS, demonstrating cultural awareness and artistic skills
Independent judgement
Development of the ability to critically reflect on the cultural value and identity of artistic productions in LIS, developing a conscious and respectful attitude towards the Deaf community. Ability to assess the impact of interpretative choices on the rendering and transmission of Deaf culture.

Communication skills
Consolidation of the ability to present, describe and explain expressions of Deaf culture in academic and professional contexts. Strengthening of the communication skills necessary to convey the peculiarities of literature and art in LIS to hearing and Deaf audiences, both orally and through practical performance.
Learning skills
Strengthening the ability to learn independently through observation, critical analysis and practice of texts and performances of Deaf culture. Acquisition of tools to develop increasingly refined interpretative and translational skills, capable of integrating linguistic, artistic and cultural aspects in the preparation of theoretical papers and practical performances.

Contents

The course is divided into several thematic modules. The first module introduces Deaf Culture, providing the historical, social and identity foundations of the deaf community and sign language. The second module explores the different artistic expressions of the deaf community, with a particular focus on visual arts (Deaf Art, De'Via), deaf theatre and Visual Vernacular, poetry and songs in LIS, deaf cinema and contemporary performances. The third module addresses issues of space and accessibility and provides insights into translation and interpretation strategies in LIS. Finally, the course includes practical activities related to cultural events.

Detailed program

Reflection on deaf identity and community life; the role of sign language as a cultural glue; interactions between deaf and hearing people.
Contemporary performances
Analysis of new artistic and performative forms in LIS; integration of art, technology and sign language; contemporary visual and narrative experiments.
Space and accessibility
Study of spaces accessible to deaf people; adaptation of cultural and performance events; inclusion and accessible cultural design.
In-depth analysis of translations
Strategies for interpreting and translating poetic, theatrical and performative texts in LIS; enhancement of cultural and linguistic fidelity; practical translation and interpretation exercises.
Practical activities and research
Participation in cultural events to conduct research on the artists and works to be analysed in the theoretical exam; preparation of the final practical performance as an assessment project.

Prerequisites

It is assumed that students already have a basic knowledge of Italian Sign Language (LIS) and its fundamental structures, as acquired in preparatory interpreting and translation courses. Basic terminology relating to deaf culture and community is also assumed to be known.
Students who have not yet acquired these skills are invited to inform the lecturer (by email or in person) in order to arrange any support and further study activities.

For the academic year 2026/2027 it will not be possible to select this course as a single-course entry.
Exam not selectable from the study plan by students not enrolled in Interpretariato e Traduzione in Lingua dei

Segni Italiana (LIS) e Lingua dei Segni Italiana Tattile (LIST) *(Italian Sign Language (LIS) and Tactile Italian Sign Language (LIST) Interpretation)*.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 42 hours of classroom-based lessons. The teaching method is mainly practical and entirely in LIS, without the use of Italian. Some theoretical content taken from written texts will be translated and adapted into the artistic form of sign language.
During the lessons, students are encouraged to participate actively, with practical exercises, performance analysis, artistic workshops and interpretation and translation simulations. The aim is to develop communication, interpretation and critical skills, promoting awareness of the linguistic and cultural nuances of LIS.
As a rough guide, approximately 25 hours of practical activities and 17 hours of adapted theoretical instruction are planned, always in LIS, with interactive moments of discussion and comparison on artistic and cultural productions.

Assessment methods

No mid-term exams are scheduled.
The examination is oral and consists of two distinct parts:
Theoretical part
Students must present the results of individual research on a Deaf artist or cultural production (poetry, Visual Vernacular, theatre, visual art, or other). The paper must demonstrate an understanding of linguistic and artistic nuances, an analysis of metaphors and cultural meanings, and the ability to contextualise the work within the Deaf community.
Practical part
Students will give a short personal performance in LIS (poetry, Visual Vernacular, signed song, theatrical monologue or other artistic form), demonstrating expressive mastery, cultural awareness and interpretative skills.
Assessment criteria
The final assessment takes into account:
? completeness and accuracy of the theoretical analysis;
? ability to argue and explain interpretative choices;
? expressive quality and creativity of the performance;
? consistency between theoretical analysis and practical implementation.
The oral examination aims to assess both the acquisition of theoretical and cultural knowledge and the ability to apply it in artistic and interpretative practice in LIS.

Evalutation grid:
18: Barely sufficient knowledge of the fundamental concepts of LIS Culture; minimal ability to analyze LIS literature and the artistic forms of the Deaf community.

19–22: Sufficient knowledge of the main topics, with still partial analysis and interpretation skills, and some uncertainty in applying the concepts.

23–26: Good knowledge of the contents, fair ability to analyze LIS literature and the various artistic forms, with some minor inaccuracies.

27–30: Solid and thorough knowledge of the contents, good critical ability in analyzing literature and artistic expressions in LIS, and appropriate use of specific terminology.

30 cum laude: Excellent knowledge of the contents, full mastery of the cultural and artistic aspects of LIS, critical

thinking and capacity for independent study, accurate analysis of LIS literature and art forms using appropriate specialized language.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be listed on the course's e-learning website.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES