UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Lis Styles and Registers

2627-3-E2005P022

Learning area

Acquisition of linguistic skills in LIS, LIST, and Italian

Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding
By the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the concepts of language variation, style, register, and communicative genre, with particular reference to Italian Sign Language (LIS). They will understand how the characteristics of a LIS production may vary according to the context, the intended audience, the communicative purpose, and the type of text. They will also have developed a deeper understanding of the main elements contributing to the organisation, cohesion, and effectiveness of signed discourse.
Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Students will be able to apply the knowledge acquired to the observation and analysis of LIS productions, identifying their linguistic, textual, and communicative features. They will be able to adapt and reformulate a production for different audiences, contexts, purposes, genres, and registers, improving its clarity, coherence, and communicative appropriateness. At an introductory level, they will also be able to identify and apply adaptation strategies for Deafblind recipients, with particular attention to conveying relevant visual, spatial, and contextual information in LIST (Tactile Italian Sign Language). Finally, they will be able to use tools and procedures for observing, collecting, and annotating linguistic data from video productions.
Making Judgements
Students will develop the ability to observe and critically evaluate the linguistic and communicative choices made in their own and others' productions, distinguishing between language variation, stylistic choices, appropriateness to the context, and possible expressive difficulties. They will be able to justify their observations on the basis of concrete evidence and propose possible reformulations, while maintaining an informed and respectful attitude towards the diversity of LIS varieties and uses.
Communication Skills

Students will be able to produce clear, coherent, and appropriate discourse in LIS for different communicative and professional situations. They will be able to present and explain their linguistic choices in LIS, participate in discussions of the productions analysed, and provide and receive constructive feedback. They will also be able to adapt their productions by taking into account the knowledge, needs, and characteristics of the intended audience.
Learning Skills
Students will develop independent strategies for observing, analysing, and improving their LIS skills. They will be able to use analytical grids, video productions, linguistic sources, and reference materials to explore the topics covered and identify their own learning needs. They will therefore be able to continue developing their language skills independently and transfer the skills acquired to new communicative, educational, and professional contexts.

Contents

The course explores the concepts of language variation, style, register, and communicative genre in LIS. Through the analysis and comparison of different productions, students will examine discourse organisation and the appropriateness of linguistic choices in relation to the context, the intended audience, and the communicative purpose. A significant part of the course will be devoted to practical activities involving production, adaptation, and reformulation in LIS, with some applications relating to LIST and the communicative needs of Deafblind people.

Detailed program

The course provides an in-depth exploration of the concepts of language variation, style, register, and communicative genre, with particular reference to Italian Sign Language. It will examine how LIS productions may vary according to the context, the intended audience, the purpose, and the communicative situation.
Different types of LIS productions will be analysed, with particular attention to discourse organisation, information structure and progression, lexical and grammatical choices, use of signing space, and non-manual components. Criteria and tools for observing, collecting, and annotating video materials will also be presented.
The practical component will focus on production, adaptation, and reformulation activities relating to different genres, registers, audiences, and contexts, including professional contexts. Activities may include individual and group work, comparison of different productions, feedback, and self-assessment. They will be adapted to the skills and learning needs of the class.
As part of the adaptation and reformulation activities, students will review the LIST skills acquired during their previous studies. Activities involving the adaptation of content for Deafblind people will be proposed, with particular attention to the features of the tactile modality and to conveying visual, spatial, and contextual information.

Prerequisites

The course is intended for students with advanced proficiency in Italian Sign Language (LIS) who have already attended the LIS courses scheduled for the first and second years of the Degree Programme.

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 comprises:
? 18 hours of Teacher-led Teaching (Didattica Erogativa – DE), devoted to the presentation and exploration of theoretical concepts, the introduction of analytical criteria, and the explanation of the activities;
? 45 hours of Interactive Teaching (Didattica Interattiva – DI), devoted to discussions, the analysis and comparison of LIS productions, individual and group exercises, production, adaptation and reformulation activities, peer feedback, and self-assessment.
Teaching is organised in the form of lessons combining the presentation of course content with practical activities. Interactive activities are based on collaborative learning and learning by doing. The format and level of detail of the exercises will be adapted to the skills and learning needs of the class.
Of the total 63 hours, 39 will be delivered in person and 24 through synchronous online teaching using the University's institutional platform.

Assessment methods

The examination consists of a video-recorded practical assessment and an oral assessment in Italian Sign Language (LIS). The overall mark is awarded out of 30: up to 20 points for the practical assessment and up to 10 points for the oral assessment.
Practical assessment
Students will produce two short videos in LIS, with a maximum combined duration of 6 minutes. Based on a prompt provided by the lecturer two weeks before the examination date, the same content must be adapted for two different audiences, contexts or communicative registers. The videos must be submitted one week before the examination date, following the lecturer's instructions.
Assessment criteria include appropriateness to the communicative situations, clarity and organisation of discourse, accuracy and effectiveness of linguistic choices, and the ability to adapt the content.
Oral assessment
The oral assessment will take place in LIS on the examination date and will focus on comparing the two video productions and explaining the choices made. Assessment criteria include analytical skills, clarity of explanation, and application of the concepts covered during the course.

There are no interim assessments.

Assessment Criteria
? 30 with honours: Outstanding preparation; fully appropriate, clear, and well-organised productions; excellent analytical and adaptation skills and a high degree of independent reflection.
? 27–30: Very good preparation; appropriate and coherent productions; strong ability to analyse and explain the choices made.
? 24–26: Good preparation; generally appropriate productions, with some minor inaccuracies; satisfactory analytical skills.
? 21–23: Fair preparation; understandable productions that are not always fully appropriate or well organised; partial analytical skills.
? 18–20: Achievement of the minimum learning objectives; sufficiently understandable productions and essential knowledge of the course content.
? Below 18: Insufficient preparation; significant difficulties in production, adaptation, or understanding the fundamental course content.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be published on the course’s e-learning website before the beginning of the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES