# . – General Linguistics (Course B)

## Prof. Maria Paola Tenchini

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course provides an introduction to the principles and methods of linguistic analysis, and a description of the general features of the linguistic structures and functions of language in verbal communication. It highlights particularly the functional and pragmatic aspects of communicative events, and the European language regions (with some reference to extra-European areas) with a focus on their respective variety, plurilingualism and contact phenomena.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify and use the key concepts at the basis of the study of language and languages. In particular, they will be able to: define the main properties of verbal language; identify, describe and analyse linguistic structures at a phonetics-phonological, morphological and syntactic level; apply general notions to concrete examples and link concrete examples to general notions; analyse lexicon in terms of its constituent semantic features and identify the relationships between the meanings of the same lemma, as well as the relationships with the meanings of other lemmas; recognise and analyse the mechanisms of verbal communication, implicit and explicit. They will also be able to classify languages into families and types (on the basis of genealogical, morphological and syntactic criteria for classifying world languages), and recognise and assess variation phenomena, as well as their contexts of use, multilingualism and contact. Finally, they will be able to express their knowledge of the discipline using the appropriate linguistic terminology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Characteristics and features of verbal language.

2. Phonetics, phonological, morphological, and syntactical units and processes.

3. Lexical semantics.

4. Pragmatics. Implicit and explicit verbal communication.

5. Languages as repertoires of variety.

6. Language contact: loan words, structural and semantic calques.

7. Language classification.

***READING LIST***

G. Berruto-M. Cerruti, *La linguistica. Un corso introduttivo,* Utet Università, Turin, 2022.

C. Andorno, *Che cos’è la pragmatica linguistica*, Carocci, Rome, 2018.

Details of further reading material and additional teaching materials will be made available on *Blackboard*.

The reading material will be integrated with personal notes taken during lectures and any supplementary material posted on *Blackboard*. The syllabus and reading list are the same for both attending and non-attending students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of 60 hours of frontal lectures with slide shows. There will also be a 20-hour series of practical classes on pronunciation and voice management.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is divided into two parts, both of which are compulsory. The first part of the exam is in written format and deals with contents addressed in semester 1. It will include closed and/or open questions to assess a) the ability to recognise and classify linguistic phenomena b) understanding of the main principles and methods of the linguistic sciences. Each question is worth one mark; the sum of the maximum number of marks is equivalent to 30/30 with honours.

The second part of the exam is based on the topics explained during semester 2 and aims to assess students’ learning of course content and skills as well as their ability to orient themselves among the topics discussed in class. Assessment criteria: accuracy of answers; use of appropriate terminology; ability to build a clear and structured argumentation; capacity to identify conceptual connections and open issues. *Lode* (distinction) will be awarded based on the accuracy and full development of answers.

Students must pass the written test with a mark of 18/30 or higher in order to take the oral exam on the contents of the second semester.

The oral part of the examination must be taken within a year of passing the written test. The final overall mark is based on the results of both the written and oral parts.

Students can sit the first part by taking a preliminary exam (at the end of semester 1). From the summer session, students can take both parts of the exam in one sitting, although they will still be able to take them on separate dates as well.

Further information will be given during lectures and published on *Blackboard*.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should have a good knowledge of the linguistic rules of the Italian language.

Students should check the notifications on *Blackboard* and the noticeboard on the lecturer’s webpage regularly, as well as the material uploaded onto *Blackboard*.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.