# . – General Linguistics (Course B)

## Prof. Maria Paola Tenchini

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

The course offers an introduction to the principles and methods of linguistic analysis and a description of the general characters of linguistic units and structures and the functions of language in verbal communication. It highlights particularly the textual, 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. Finally, the topic of the language-culture relationship is addressed.

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. Students will therefore be able to define the main properties of verbal language, and identify, describe and analyse linguistic phenomena at the phonetic-phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic levels, knowing how to apply general notions to concrete examples and trace concrete examples back to general notions. They will be able to recognise and analyse the mechanisms of explicit and implicit verbal communication and will have the fundamental tools to recognise and describe the main pragmatic functions within monological and dialogical texts. 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. Methods of linguistic analysis.

2. Linguistic structures as a unit and as processes.

3. The mechanisms of verbal, implicit and explicit communication.

4. Languages and linguistic spaces; the classification of languages.

5. Phenomena of variation, multilingualism and contact.

6. Languages and culture.

***READING LIST***

G. Gobber, *Lineamenti di linguistica,* Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2022.

Further educational materials and bibliographical references will be made available on the Blackboard platform. The contents of the volume for adoption will be usefully integrated with the personal notes taken in class and with the materials posted on Blackboard. The programme and reading list are the same for both attending and non-attending students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is divided into 60 hours of frontal and participatory teaching, with the help of media supports.

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.