**Ontology and Language Sciences**

## Prof. Savina Raynaud

### [This course is made available by the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, which advertises it as “Philosophy and Theory of Languages”]

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

In conjunction with the skills developed in their languages of specialisation and native languages, the course aims for students to develop a capacity for comparison, smetalinguistic reflection and critical evaluation in their approach to the links between speech, thought and ontology.

**Intended learning outcomes:** By the end of the course, students will be able to correlate the empirical data and theoretical models studied, demonstrating the bases on which the examined and explanatory hypotheses may be accepted or rejected. In order to do this, students will prepare a short draft on a text of their choice, analysed with the theoretical tools provided during the course, to be submitted a week before the examination date.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will address the following issues and problems, through the study of the work of Émile Benveniste:

* the relationship between historical linguistics, general linguistics and philosophy of language
* the relationship between languages, culture and institutions;
* the utterance, textuality;
* subjectivity, intersubjectivity and indexicality
* language and anthropology.

***READING LIST***

– Giovanni Manetti e Federica Venier (edited by), *Émile Benveniste. Le sorgenti segrete di un linguista poliedrico*, Edizioni ETS, Pisa, 2021.

– Émile Benveniste, *Essere di parola. Semantica, soggettività, cultura*, edited by Paolo Fabbri, translation by Giovanna Migliore, Bruno Mondadori, Milano 2009.

– Additional articles, slides and further materials on the course will be published on Blackboard.

– For students on the Literature and Philosophy or Literature and Philosophy/Education Science interfaculty programmes (Lettere e Filosofia or Interfacoltà di Lettere e Filosofia e Scienze della Formazione) - 6 or 12 ECTS credits - there will be a series of practical classes as well as an additional reading list, which differ depending on whether students have already followed a course in Semantics or the Philosophy of Language as part of their three-year degree, or whether they are approaching the subject for the first time.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures with slides; readings and case studies presented and commentated by students. A number of guest speakers will also give lectures/hold practical classes. This is an intensive course and takes place across two modules. Therefore, students with only one module in their study plan should take the first module. The reading list will be adjusted accordingly, in terms of quantity and the educational path of the students i.e. Philosophy, Communication, etc.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam and discussion of the short written assignment, which must be submitted for marking one week before the exam date for which the student has registered.

**Assessment criteria**: Not only must students demonstrate that they have acquired the new specialist skills (70%), they must also be able to develop and apply them (30%) integrating them with the linguistic competences they already possess, both acquired and learned, particularly the metalinguistic (10%), metatextual (10%) and critical (10%) skills central to the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This is an annual (60 hour), intensive course taught in semester 2.

**Prerequisites:** As this Master’s course addresses metalinguistic content, and given the heterogeneity of the students’ degree backgrounds, the lecturer will take their prior knowledge of semiotics, semantics and linguistic theory into consideration, striving to fill any relative gaps, as well as encourage the sharing of skills and knowledge between students when working on group tasks.

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.