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# General Linguistics (*Languages for Business Profile*)

## Gr. A-K: Prof. Sarah Bigi; Gr. L-Z: Prof. Giovanni Gobber

*Gr. A-K: Prof. Sarah Bigi*

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

Starting from an introduction to the phenomena typically at work in spoken interactions, the course develops by focusing at first on the features that characterize texts, observing in particular the dynamics of meaning specification. The first part of the course is concluded by focusing on the relationship between languages and cultures. The second part of the course will illustrate the organisational principles of languages, understood as tools for communication. In the context of this hypothesis, the course will present languages’ main features at the phonological, morphological and syntactic levels. The course is concluded by an introduction to European linguistic regions, with a particular focus on their respective variety, plurilingualism and contact phenomena.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify and analyze the main linguistic structures and phenomena; they will also be able to describe their main pragmatic functions within written texts and dialogues.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Implicit and explicit verbal communication

2. Languages and linguistic territories in Europe

3. Linguistic structures as units and processes

4. Languages and cultures

***READING LIST***

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

Further study material will be made available on the virtual classroom.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, group discussions, analysis of real-life cases.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is a written test. There will be both open and closed questions to assess students’ a) capacity to recognise and classify linguistic phenomena; b) understanding of the fundamental methods and principles of linguistics.

Students will be assessed on pertinence and completeness of answers; clarity and accuracy of their presentation of information; and use of language, with a focus on the specific terminology of general linguistics.

Further information will be provided during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

 *Requirements*

The course’s contents presuppose a basic knowledge of the main grammatical and linguistic structures.

*Office hours*

Thursdays, from 14:30 to 16:30, at the Department of Linguistic sciences and foreign literatures (via Necchi 9).

*Gr- L-Z: Prof. Giovanni Gobber*

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

The central part of the course is devoted to the organisational principles of languages understood as communication tools. The main characteristics of language structures in the dynamics of verbal communication are also presented.

Then, starting with an introduction to linguistic spaces, especially European and Mediterranean ones, the characteristics of variation and multilingualism are described, as well as the main types of contact between languages.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the European map of languages, always considering the variation phenomenon (also in multilingual contexts). This perspective will help them to identify *standard* varieties as “exemplary ones”, when compared with other linguistic phenomena. Furthermore, students will learn to carry out a morphological, lexical, and syntactical analysis of the structures at the basis of *standard* varieties, and recognise and describe the main pragmatic functions of monologic and dialogic texts in written varieties.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Verbal, implicit and explicit communication.

2. Language structures as units and as processes.

3. Languages and linguistic spaces in Europe.

***READING LIST***

G. Gobber, *Linguistica generale*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano (in printing)

Further teaching material will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, based on student participation, and supported by audio visual material and concrete case studies.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written assessment, divided into two different tests. The first one, based on the topics explained during semester 1, consists of open-ended and closed-ended questions aimed at testing the students’ ability to recognise and classify languages and linguistic phenomena, according to the fundamental principles and methods at the basis of linguistic sciences. The second test, instead, is based on the topics explained during semester 2, and aims to test the skills that students have acquired during the course, such as the ability to apply the contents and the methods learned in class to concrete case studies.

Alternatively, students are allowed to take the first test at the end of semester 1, and the second one at the end of semester 2 (during any official exam session). The final mark will result from the average between the two written tests. In addition, students have the possibility (but they are not obliged to) see their complete exam papers during a meeting with the lecturer, in order to obtain further clarifications on the final mark. Students can also decide to refuse the mark within the time limits established by university regulations.

The evaluation of the exam will be based on the following criteria: 1) accuracy of answers, 2) ability to build a clear and structured argumentation, 3) use of appropriate vocabulary, belonging to general linguistics. Each of these criteria will constitute one third of the final mark. Vocabulary, grammar, and spelling mistakes, as well as poor handwriting, will negatively affect the final mark.

Further information will be made available in class and on the lecturer’s webpage.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites for attending the course:*

A good knowledge of the Italian language in terms of spelling, grammar, and vocabulary; the ability to write relevant and coherent texts (that is to say, corresponding to the task assigned by the lecturer).

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.

# General Linguistics (Curricula: Languages for Management and Tourism; Languages, Communication, Media studies and Digital cultures; Foreign Languages and Literatures)

## Prof. Maria Cristina Gatti

**Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff**

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

The course aims to illustrate the fundamental dynamics of verbal communication as linguistic mediation of human interaction. It also intends to investigate the main structures of the linguistic system (lexicon, morphology, syntax), highlighting its communicative power.

By the end of the course, students will be able to orient themselves among the main linguistic models and analyse communication events at various levels within the language system. They will also be able to describe communicative objects on a semiotic level, reconstruct the implications of the discourse, analyse structured lexemes based on different lexicon structuring processes, describe the morphological structure of the word forms, recognise the main syntactic structures and outline the communicative power of discourse elements through their characterisation on a semantic, morphological and syntactic level.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Linguistics among the communication sciences; the constituent factors of the communicative event; from action to communicative interaction.

– Structural and functionalist language models. The pragmatic perspective.

– Persuasive communication and its dynamics; manipulation and type of manipulative processes.

– Compositionality, congruity and cohesion of speech.

– The linguistic structures from a contrasting perspective: communicative resources of the lexicon; morphological structures and their use; syntactic processes.

– Parts of speech and their communicative “power”.

 From syntactic structure to textual organisation.

– The semantic-pragmatic aspects of negation

***READING LIST***

E. Rigotti-S. Cigada*,* *La comunicazione verbale,* Maggioli Editore, 2013.

M.C. Gatti, *La negazione in prospettiva semantico- pragmatica. Le dinamiche dello scope,* EduCatt,Milan 2022 (students have to choose 2 chapters).

M.C. Gatti, *Dai connettivi ai connettori. A proposito di “filo del discorso”*, EDUCatt, Milan, 2018, p. 21-42 (Chapter II).

Further information will be made available in class and on the lecturer’s webpage on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and workshops in which theoretical categoriality will be applied to the analysis of texts, chosen considering the communication contexts of each profile (mass media communication, promotional, and literary texts).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral assessment. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the texts indicated in the reading list, and further material made available on Blackboard.

The final mark will be based on the following assessment criteria: knowledge of the subject (60%), and ability to apply the topics and methods explained in class to the analysis of empirical data at every linguistic level (40%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

A goof knowledge of the Italian language at every level constitutes a prerequisite for this course.

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.