# Philosophy of Language (Module 1)

## Prof. Savina Raynaud

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

To raise the questions “what is meaning?" and "how to communicate thought?" against a background of pre-theoretical assumptions or intuitions inherent in verbal language, and respond to them with basic competences based on an institutional framework of theory and several historical events.

The courseaimsto provide students with a concise but systematic knowledge of the philosophical theory of meaning, and to ensure their effective understanding and ability to apply it in ordinary language and in philosophical contexts, equipped with basic terminological and critical competences.

COURSE CONTENT

The general features of the discipline, and its configuration in the relationship with philosophy and language sciences.

From lexical semantics to propositional semantics: the role of the notion of predicate, nominal phrases and verbal phrases.

Statements, utterances and illocutionary forces.

Implicit communication.

Linguistic philosophy, that is, the role of language in the formation of philosophical discourse.

READING LIST

A. Frigerio, *Filosofia del linguaggio,* Apogeo, Milan, 20202. This is a second edition, renewed, which replaces the first.

A short selection of classic readings that, with the slides and course materials, will be available on Blackboard.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal theoretical lectures, with some in-depth information on the history of theory and the illustration of several case studies.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Oral exam to evaluate:

– the ability to move from a pre-theoretical semantic competence (implicit and intuitive) to progressively explicit and critically founded basic semantic theory; the ability to illustrate the theoretical key-points learned with one's own examples is highly recommended;

– the ability to apply this knowledge to actual texts, of one's own or others' production,

The assessment will be based 50% on students' knowledge of the theory, 25% on their ability to explain chosen passages by authors whose texts are provided, and 25% on their ability to apply the theory to short texts administered at the end of the exam.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

The course is semester-based, lasting 30 hours.

There are no prerequisites related to the discipline, which the course introduces.

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.