**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, metalinguistic and metatextual reflection and critical evaluation in their approach to the links between speech, thought, frames of reference 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. They will also be able to apply the concepts learned to multi-lingual texts of various types. In order to do this, students will prepare also a short draft on a text of their choice, analysed and characterised with the theoretical tools provided during the course, to be submitted a week before the examination date.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The aims of human language and the range of mediation in historical and natural languages.

Functionalism: theory and history.

Comparative semiotics and semantics.

***READING LIST***

– S. Raynaud, 1999, *Il funzionalismo praghese e Roman Jakobson,* in *Semiotica I. Origini e fondamenti*, a cura di G. Bettetini, S. Cigada, S. Raynaud, E. Rigotti, Pubblicazioni del Centro di Linguistica dell'Università Cattolica, La Scuola, Brescia, pp. 345-383.

– S. Raynaud, 2008, *The Basic Syntagmatic Act is Predication.* “Slovo a slovesnost”, vol. LXVIII (4), pp. 49-66.

– R. Sornicola, 2011, *Riflessioni sul concetto di funzione e le sue radici nel pensiero linguistico tra Otto- e Novecento*", in Bustos Tovar J., Cano Aguilar R., Mendez Garcia de Paredes E., Lopez Serena A. (edited by), *Sintaxis y análisis del discurso hablado en español.* Homenaje a Antonio Narbona, Sevilla, Publicaciones de la Universidad de Sevilla, vol. II, 963-977.

– R. Sornicola, 2019, *The polyphony of voices of the Prague Circle: Reappraising Mathesius’s role vis-à-vis Jakobson’s*, N. 7 “Annali del Dipartimento di Studi Letterari, Linguistici e Comparati Sezione linguistica”, pp. 167-248; <http://www.serena.unina.it/index.php/aionlin/article/view/6328>

– S. Kuno, S., E. Kaburaki 1977, *Empathy and Syntax*, “Linguistic Inquiry”, Autumn, 1977, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Autumn, 1977), pp. 627-672

– 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. Students will be assessed on: relevance of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, ability to structure well-argued and coherent argumentation, and ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

**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.

Although not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged.

More detailed information will be provided by the lecturer in class and on Blackboard.

**Prerequisites:** As this graduate course addresses metalinguistic content, and given the heterogeneity of the students’ degree backgrounds, at the beginning 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.