**Speech communication**

Prof. Giovanni Gobber

1. ***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***
2. The course focuses on how language is used by people to act socially and to achieve their goals in a variety of social contexts. Particular attention will be paid to how language, context and culture shape the way in which we argue and try to persuade other people. An intercultural viewpoint is also taken into account, and it will be shown how intercultural argumentation is both necessary and risky.
3. *Knowledge and understanding*
4. At the end of the course students are expected to have gained an understanding of the fundamental questions concerning language use as a joint activity in a multifaceted cultural space.
5. *Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*
6. At the end of the course students are expected to be able to analyse language use in specific contexts.
7. At the end of the course students are expected to be able to manage argumentation as a verbal, social and rational activity.
8. *Transferable skills*
9. At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their ability to use language in professional contexts, with attention to argument-management skills.
10. ***COURSE CONTENT***
11. The course will cover the following topics:
12. 1.1 Language and intercultural communication.
13. 1.2 Culture, perception and cognition. Intercultural contacts, cultures in context and intercultural competence.
14. 2.1 Dialogue, conversation and discourse; speech functions, meaning and utterances.
15. 2.2 Action, interaction and verbal communication.
16. 3.1 Reasoning, reasonableness and argumentation in context.
17. 3.2 Culture-bound and universal components of argumentation; intercultural fallacies.
18. ***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***
19. Marcel Danesi – Andrea Rocci, *Global Linguistics*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin / New York 2009.
20. Further material will be made available in class and online on Blackboard for the students enrolled in the course.
21. ***TEACHING METHOD***
22. Class lectures and discussions. Active participation in class discussion is recommended.
23. ***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be a written examination which consists of three open questions on topics covered in the course. Two questions regard theoretical issues, whereas in the third question an application of the course contents to a concrete text is required. The test will run for 60 minutes.

The final mark, on a 30-point scale, will be based on the student’s knowledge and understanding of the topics assessed through the first two questions as well as on the student’s ability to apply the knowledge assessed through the last question.

The course also includes the possibility to take an early exam session that is specifically structured to favour students who have regularly attended lectures. In this case, the questions will focus on specific topics discussed as well as on the analysis that have been carried out during the lectures. The date of this exam is agreed with the students according to the Faculty’s academic calendar.

The oral exam can be requested by students who have passed the written test, in case they believe that their preparation does not correspond to the test outcome. This possible oral exam is therefore a second optional test, but it is not integrative (i.e. the mark of the oral exam is averaged with the mark of the written test).

1. ***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course assumes advanced reading skills. No previous knowledge of linguistics is required. Live streamed lectures will be used if necessary.

Students must enrol in the course on Blackboard where materials are uploaded.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

Office hours take place on a weekly basis during semester in Via Necchi 9 (Milan). Timetable variations will be communicated through the lecturer’s university webpage.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)