

**DEGREE COURSE: Technologies and Languages of Communications (LM-59)**

**TEACHING:** Sociology of Languages

**ECTS:** 6

**ARTICULATION INTO MODULES:** NO

**COURSE YEAR:** First

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**TEACHING LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The teaching aims to enable students to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. **With reference to knowledge and understanding**, students will acquire knowledge of the main perspectives and approaches to the sociology of language and sociolinguistics, with particular attention to the study of languages in social interactions and in different social contexts.
2. **With reference to applied knowledge and understanding**, students will be able to apply concepts and theories on the use of language to the analysis of contemporary social phenomena, developing, in particular, the ability to analyse political and media discourse.
3. **With reference to autonomy of judgment**, students will acquire the ability to reflect independently on the role of languages in society, developing critical thinking on relevant social issues in contemporary times, analysed through language.
4. **With reference to communication skills**, students will be able to learn and correctly use specialized terminology. Furthermore, the knowledge provided by the course will improve their communication skills, raising a greater awareness of personal linguistic communication.
5. **With reference to the ability to learn**, through discussion with the teacher and the colleagues, students will develop the ability to adopt a critical learning method, useful for connecting theoretical tools and empirical analyses, which will support the development of autonomous thought.

**DETAILED PLAN**

The course offers knowledge on the sociological tools for analysing languages and on the relationship and mutual definition between languages and society, also providing the foundations of methods of analysis of linguistic interactions. It is organized into three thematic blocks, within which the following topics are addressed:

- 1) *History of the sociology of language and sociolinguistics*: disciplinary aspects of sociology of language and sociolinguistics; language variation; code and social classes; ethnography of communication; socio-linguistic interactionism.
- 2) *Social theories on languages*: language and social construction; symbolic interactionism; ethnomethodology and languages; languages and power; semiotics.
- 3) *Analysis of languages*: social dimension of languages (social classes; social networks;

changes in languages); linguistic interaction (face-to-face interaction; conversation analysis tools; narrative analysis); genre and languages; migrations and languages; human rights and languages.

The course is structured in close reference to the book, which will be addressed in class, integrated with other materials made available by the teacher.

## **PREPARATORY REQUIREMENTS**

There are no preparatory requirements.

## **FINAL EXAM**

The exam consists of an oral discussion concerning the reference book and the study material (ppt.) provided by the teacher. Its aim is to verify students' mastery of the subject, specific linguistic skills and the main components and applied theories of analysis on the relationship between languages and society. In particular, the exam evaluates the level of learning of basic theories and concepts and the ability to critically analyse the issues covered during the course, as well as to independently apply the knowledge acquired to reflect on the relationship between languages and society.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. **Knowledge and understanding**: the exam evaluates the acquisition of notions related to the topics of the course programme.
2. **Applied knowledge and understanding**: the exam evaluates the ability to apply the tools acquired to the analysis of languages in different social contexts.
3. **Autonomy of judgement**: the exam evaluates the ability to independently carry out critical readings of the relationship between languages and society and their consequences.
4. **Communication skills**: the final exam will evaluate the terminological skills and the ability to effectively present the topics studied.
5. **Learning abilities**: the final exam will evaluate the ability to elaborate on the topics.

## **FINAL MARK ALLOCATION CRITERIA**

The final vote, expressed out of thirty, will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- 18-21: basic acquisition and application of knowledge; basic capacity for autonomous reflection; basic specific language skills.
- 22-24: good acquisition and application of knowledge; reasonable capacity for autonomous reflection; average specific language skills.
- 25-27: more than good acquisition and application of knowledge; good autonomy in reflection; good specific language skills.
- 28-30: excellent acquisition and application of knowledge; autonomy in critical reflection; excellent specific language skills.

## **TEACHING MATERIALS**

The course material consists of selected parts of one manual; ppt. provided

## **REFERENCE BOOK**

Wodak, R., Johnstone, B., Kerswill, P. (ed.) (2011), *The SAGE Handbook of Sociolinguistics*, Sage: London, pp. 630,

referring to the following chapters:

Part I (chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Part II (chapter 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

Part III (chapter 14, 15, 17)

Part IV (chapter 22, 26, 27, 28, 29)

Part V (chapter 30)

Part VI (chapter 37, 38)