

Course Sociology of Languages

SDS SPS/07

ETCS 6

Course modules (if any) None

Year I year

Semester II semester

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Office hour After class or by appointment previously arranged by e-mail.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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. At the end of the course, students have to:

- 1. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:** have acquired the 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. APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:** be able to apply concepts and theories on the use of language to the analysis of contemporary social phenomena.
- 3. MAKING JUDGEMENTS:** 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. COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** be able to learn and correctly use specialised terminology and to be more aware of their own personal linguistic communication.
- 5. LEARNING SKILL:** be able to adopt a critical learning method, connecting theoretical tools and empirical analyses.

### DETAILED PROGRAM

The course is organised 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.

### RECOMMENDED PRE-REQUISITES (IF ANY)

None

### TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Teaching methods include lectures in which the teacher will explain the topics of the course, peer learning through discussion and workshop, including presentation of group research work. The course also use audio-visual tools collectively commented and analysed through specific theoretical and methodological approaches.

### FINAL EXAMINATION METHODOLOGIES

The exam consists of an oral discussion concerning the reference book and the study material. 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

At the end of the course, the following skills of the student will be evaluated:

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.
3. **MAKING JUDGEMENTS:** the exam evaluates the ability to independently carry out critical readings of the relationship between languages and society and its consequences.
4. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** the final exam will evaluate the terminological skills and the ability to effectively present the topics studied.
5. **LEARNING SKILL:** the final exam will evaluate the ability to elaborate on the topics.

### FINAL GRADING INFORMATION AND CRITERIA

The final score is expressed in thirtieth grade, with the possibility of honors. The final score reflects the student's preparation as follows:

| Score               | Description   |
|---------------------|---|
| < 18 not sufficient | Fragmentary and superficial knowledge of contents, errors in applying concepts, insufficient exposure.                          |
| 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 / with honors | excellent acquisition and application of knowledge; autonomy in critical reflection; excellent specific language skills. |
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### **COURSE MATERIAL**

Students are required to prepare for the examination by integrating the teaching materials discussed during the in-class lectures with the following compulsory textbook:

- Wardhaugh, R. (2006), *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic* (fifth edition), Blackwell: MA, pp. 418

### **OTHER ADVICES**

Students belonging to the 'part-time/workers' category or being unable to take part in the lessons are suggested to directly contact the professor in order to analyze, together, specific training needs.