Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Linguistics and language acquisition
Course Code	500005
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	NN
Language	Italian
Degree Course	5 year master degree in Primary Education - Italian section
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Silvia Dal Negro, Silvia.DalNegro@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/12838 Prof. Lorenzo Spreafico, Lorenzo.Spreafico@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/13255
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	1
CP	9
Teaching Hours	64
Lab Hours	16
Individual Study Hours	145
Planned Office Hours	27
Contents Summary	The course is divided into three modules: Italian Linguistics, with its laboratory on "Reflection on Language: Didactic Applications," and Language Acquisition. The Italian Linguistics module provides an introduction to the structures of contemporary Italian using a descriptive and theoretically grounded approach. The Italian language is examined through the methods and principles of linguistics, introducing

	students to the theoretical and methodological tools necessary for framing and analysing linguistic phenomena. The laboratory aims to explore aspects of Italian grammar and its varieties through an inductive method grounded in problem-solving methodologies. The goal is twofold: on the one hand, to deepen students' knowledge of the Italian language to develop a mature understanding of it; on the other, to present, in a practical setting, a teaching methodology for language reflection that can be applied in preschool and elementary school contexts. The module "Language Acquisition" presents the fundamentals of the linguistic acquisition of Italian in its various forms and configurations. It introduces the research methods, theories, and essential knowledge of the discipline, always based on empirical data. The goal is to provide students with the knowledge necessary to understand and evaluate approaches, methods, and techniques in language teaching.
Course Topics	- The topics covered in the 'Linguistics of Italian' module are: language as a semiotic code (in comparison with other systems of communication); the main levels of linguistic analysis, providing examples and methods for identifying forms, functions and structures, whilst taking into account linguistic variation: phonetics and phonology; morphology; lexis and lexical semantics; syntax and the informational structure of the utterance. - The topics covered in the 'Language Acquisition' module are: the fundamentals of acquisition linguistics; research methods in acquisition linguistics; theories of language acquisition; key stages of language acquisition; linguistic and extralinguistic factors influencing language acquisition; an insight into multilingual acquisition. - In the 'Reflection on Language: Didactic Applications' workshop, the topics covered in the 'Linguistics of Italian' module are explored in greater depth and integrated, whilst also taking into account the relationship between standard and variation. During the workshop, students will learn about and how to use key tools for the study and teaching of Italian in nursery and primary schools, such as dictionaries, reference grammars, and corpora of spoken and written Italian.
Keywords	Linguistics, Acquisitional Linguistics, Reflection on language, Italian, Linguistic resources

Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lectures, delivered in a participatory manner and open to discussion; independent study of the compulsory reading list. Practical sessions involving exercises and group work in the laboratory.
Mandatory Attendance	According to the Academic Regulations
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	Knowledge and Understanding Students are familiar with the fundamentals of linguistics, the units of analysis, and the structures of the Italian language (phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon). They are familiar with the key stages and the linguistic and extralinguistic factors that influence language acquisition. They are familiar with teaching methods and resources for language reflection. Application of Knowledge and Understanding Students are able to apply the knowledge they have acquired to the analysis of linguistic data, contexts of acquisition and learning, and teaching materials for language reflection. They are able to apply this knowledge to their own teaching practice in preschool and primary school. Judgment Skills Students are able to evaluate analyses of linguistic data and learning contexts, as well as the quality of teaching materials for language reflection. Communication Students are able to present the knowledge they have acquired using appropriate specialized terminology and adopting a scientific approach. Learning Skills Students are able to identify and apply resources and tools of knowledge in the fields of linguistics, language acquisition, and language reflection.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	A 90-minute written test comprising open-ended and closed-ended questions, as well as exercises to be completed.
Evaluation Criteria	The examination is assessed with a single final mark. The following

	aspects are taken into account and assessed: relevance, comprehensiveness, critical analysis and independent interpretation, clarity of argument, and the lexical and grammatical accuracy of the answers. Active participation demonstrated by students during the seminar is also taken into account. In the event of a fail for the entire module, any partial examinations passed will be regarded as having already been passed when the student sits the full module examination on their next attempt. It should be noted that, even in this case, a fail for the entire module will count towards the total number of attempts available for sitting an examination. According to the Examination Regulations, if a student fails an examination on three consecutive attempts, they may not register for the same examination in the three sessions following the last attempt (Article 6, paragraph 4 of the current Examination Regulations).
Required Readings	Berruto, G., Cerruti, M. (2026), *Corso essenziale di linguistica*, Torino, UTET. Giuliano Bernini (2010) *Acquisizione dell'italiano come L2*. In: Enciclopedia dell'Italiano, https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/elenco-opere/Enciclopedia_dell%27Italiano/ Giuliano Bernini (2010) *Baby talk*. In: Enciclopedia dell'Italiano, https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/elenco-opere/Enciclopedia_dell%27Italiano/ Marina Chini (2005) *Che cos'è la linguistica acquisizionale*. Roma: Carocci. Kendall A. King, Alison Mackey (2006) *L'acquisizione linguistica*. Bologna: il Mulino. Lo Duca M.G. (2021), "Riflettere sulla lingua nella scuola primaria. Le domande dell'insegnante". In: Cella, R.; De Santis, C.; Setti, R. (a cura di). *Per una didattica della parola*. Firenze: Cesati.
Supplementary Readings	Masini, F., Grandi, N. (2017), *Tutto ciò che hai sempre voluto sapere sul linguaggio e sulle lingue*, Cesena, Caissa.

	Anna Giacalone Ramat (a c. d.) (2003). *Verso l'italiano*. Roma: Carocci.
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Zero hunger

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Italian linguistics
Course Code	500005A
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GLOT-01/A
Language	Italian
Lecturers	Prof. Silvia Dal Negro, Silvia.DalNegro@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/12838
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
CP	4
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	32
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	68
Planned Office Hours	12
Contents Summary	This course offers an introduction to the structures of contemporary Italian, following a descriptive and theoretically grounded approach. The Italian language is explored using the methods and principles of linguistics, enabling students to acquire the theoretical and methodological tools necessary for understanding and analyzing linguistic data.
Course Topics	Language as a semiotic code (in comparison with other systems of communication); The main levels of linguistic analysis, providing examples and methods for identifying forms, functions and structures, whilst taking into account the variability of language:

	phonetics and phonology; morphology; lexis and lexical semantics; syntax and the informational structure of the utterance.
Teaching Format	Face-to-face, using a participatory approach and encouraging discussion; independent study of the compulsory reading list (face-to-face teaching).
Required Readings	Berruto, G., Cerruti, M. (2026), *Corso essenziale di linguistica*, Torino, UTET.
Supplementary Readings	Masini, F., Grandi, N. (2017), *Tutto ciò che hai sempre voluto sapere sul linguaggio e sulle lingue*, Cesena, Caissa.

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Language acquisition
Course Code	500005B
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GLOT-01/B
Language	Italian
Lecturers	Prof. Lorenzo Spreafico, Lorenzo.Spreafico@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/13255
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
CP	4
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	32
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	68
Planned Office Hours	12
Contents Summary	This course introduces the acquisition of Italian in its various forms. Drawing on empirical data, it addresses key concepts, methods and theoretical approaches in the field of language acquisition research.
Course Topics	Basic concepts of language acquisition research; methods in

	language acquisition research; theoretical approaches to language acquisition; milestones of language acquisition; linguistic and extra-linguistic influencing factors of language acquisition; an insight into multilingual acquisition.
Teaching Format	Face-to-face, with a participatory approach and an openness to discussion; independent study of the compulsory reading list.
Required Readings	Giuliano Bernini (2010) *Acquisizione dell'italiano come L2*. In: Enciclopedia dell'Italiano, https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/elenco-opere/Enciclopedia_dell%27Italiano/ Giuliano Bernini (2010) *Baby talk*. In: Enciclopedia dell'Italiano, https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/elenco-opere/Enciclopedia_dell%27Italiano/ Marina Chini (2005) *Che cos'è la linguistica acquisizionale*. Roma: Carocci. Kendall A. King, Alison Mackey (2006) *L'acquisizione linguistica*. Bologna: il Mulino.
Supplementary Readings	Anna Giacalone Ramat (a c. d.) (2003). *Verso l'italiano*. Roma: Carocci.

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	Language awareness: Applications for teaching (lab.)
Course Code	500005C
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	LIFI-01/A
Language	Italian
Lecturers	Prof. Silvia Dal Negro, Silvia.DalNegro@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/12838
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
CP	1
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	0

Lab Hours	16 Gruppo 1,2,3+4: Prof. Silvia Dal Negro
Individual Study Hours	9
Planned Office Hours	3
Contents Summary	The aim of the laboratory is to explore aspects of the grammar of Italian and its varieties using an inductive approach based on problem-solving methods. Two goals are pursued here: firstly, students are to deepen their knowledge of Italian grammar in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the linguistic system; secondly, teaching methods to promote language awareness, applicable in primary school and kindergarten, are taught using concrete examples.
Course Topics	The topics of this laboratory deepen and complement the content of the lecture 'Italian Linguistics', including the relationship between language standardization and variation. In the laboratory, students become familiar with important learning and teaching resources such as dictionaries, reference grammars, and corpora of spoken and written Italian.
Teaching Format	Practical sessions involving exercises and group work.
Required Readings	Lo Duca M.G. (2021), "Riflettere sulla lingua nella scuola primaria. Le domande dell'insegnante". In: Cella, R.; De Santis, C.; Setti, R. (a cura di). *Per una didattica della parola*. Firenze: Cesati.
Supplementary Readings	