



# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

DEPARTMENT	Scienze Umanistiche		
ACADEMIC YEAR	2020/2021		
MASTER'S DEGREE (MSC)	PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SCIENCES		
SUBJECT	LANGUAGE EPISTEMOLOGY		
TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	C		
AMBIT	21023-Attività formative affini o integrative		
CODE	13170		
SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)	M-FIL/05		
HEAD PROFESSOR(S)	LA MANTIA FRANCESCO	Professore Associato	Univ. di PALERMO
OTHER PROFESSOR(S)			
CREDITS	6		
INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)	120		
COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)	30		
PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS			
MUTUALIZATION			
YEAR	2		
TERM (SEMESTER)	2° semester		
ATTENDANCE	Not mandatory		
EVALUATION	Out of 30		
TEACHER OFFICE HOURS	LA MANTIA FRANCESCO Friday 15:00 19:00 Edificio 12, 4 piano.		

DOCENTE: Prof. FRANCESCO LA MANTIA

PREREQUISITES	Required is a basic knowledge of a foreign language: English or French.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	ECTS credits for this course are awarded to students who: Knowledge and understanding: •have demonstrated knowledge and understanding about the most salient topics that come up in philosophy of language as well as advanced knowledge of secondary literature that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context; Applying knowledge and understanding: •can autonomously apply their theoretical linguistic knowledges with particular reference to their field of study, as well as to apply their knowledge to examine critically texts or examples derived from the analysis of the activity of language; Making judgements: •have the ability to integrate their linguistic knowledge and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on epistemological and formal consequences linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements; •have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous. Communication: •can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and nonspecialist audiences clearly and unambiguously. Their communicative and argumentative abilities will be strengthened thanks to the practical activities (seminars, guides lectures, and so on...) included in the program. Learning Ability: have the ability to master the acquired knowledges.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	ONGOING EVALUATION: There will be a mid-term writing assignment. Final oral assessment: The oral assessment is a viva in which knowledge and skills in the field of study are going to be tested. Final pass marks go from 18 to 30 points cum laude. The student is required to answer at least 2 or 3 oral questions regarding the whole program of study with reference to the suggested books. Questions shall assess a) Knowledge and understanding b) cognitive and practical skills c) ability to communicate; d) making judgements. NoteEuropean Qualifications Framework 30 - 30 cum laude a)advanced knowledge of a field of work or study, involving a critical understanding of linguistic theories and principles b)advanced linguistic and logical skills, demonstrating mastery and innovation, required to solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialised field of work or study c)fully adequate use of specialized language d)take responsibility for managing and innovate the study field 26 29 a)comprehensive, specialised knowledge within a field of work or study and an awareness of the boundaries of that knowledge b)a comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills required to develop creative solutions to abstract problems c)comprehensive use of specialized language d)exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities 22 25 a)knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts, in a field of work or study. b)basic skills required to accomplish tasks and *solve problems by selecting and applying basic methods, tools, materials and information c)basic capacity to use specialized language d)basic capacity to take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study 18-21 a)basic general knowledge b)basic skills required to carry out simple tasks c)basic capacity to communicate relevant informations d)basic capacity to take responsibility for completion of tasks in work or study. Less than 18/30 a) insufficient evaluation. Non-attending students are expected to contact in due advance the teacher as to define a specific program
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	Generally, the syntactic structure of phrases, utterances and discursive sequences is associated to the so-called "Chomsky's trees". The class aims at explaining the reasons favoring the linguistic acceptance of such formal objects by revealing how they are construed in research programs outside of the Chomskyan tradition. At this regard, a very interesting case is offered by some criticisms developed by the mathematician Jean Petitot and the theoretical linguist Antoine Culioli: the first has tried to correct the Chomskyan trees by means of some theoretical categories belonging to the qualitative mathematics of dynamical systems; the second has totally rejected them by introducing new graphical devices known as "treilles" and developed with the mathematician Jean-Pierre Desclés. Although different, the theoretical responses of Petitot and Culioli share the same theoretical concern: the trees would excessively simplify some peculiar formal features of natural language's syntax. This remark will be examined in order to discuss its both theoretical gains and possible limits. In conclusion, three distinct approaches to the analysis of syntax will be described in order to compare their respective modelling activities.
TEACHING METHODS	Frontal teaching Guided discussion on the proposed texts Seminars held by the students
SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	1. Noam Chomsky, Regole e Rappresentazioni, Milano, Il Saggiatore, 1981, p. 1-40. 2. Noam Chomsky, New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind, MIT press, 1996, p. 1-40 3. Jean Petitot, Morfogenesi del senso. Per uno schematismo della struttura, Milano, Bompiani, p.140-146. 4. Cedric Boecks, Elementary Syntactic Structures, Cambridge, Cambridge

	<p>University Press, 2015 p. 1-50.</p> <p>5. Jean-Claude Milner, De l'inutilité des arbres en linguistiques, ERA 642, Les éditions du Département de l'Université de Paris VII, 1972 p. 1-18.</p> <p>Almeno uno a scelta tra i seguenti testi:</p> <p>1. Francesco La Mantia "Pour se faire langage", Louvaine-La Neuve, Les éditions Academia, 2020, p. 1-50.</p> <p>2. Charles Alunni, Francesco La Mantia, Fernando Zalamea (edited by) Diagrams and Gestures. Mathematics, Philosophy, Linguistics, Berlin, Springer, 2021. p. 1-50</p> <p>3. Antoine Culioli, L'Arco e la freccia, Scritti scelti, Il Mulino, 2014. p. 79-109.</p>
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## SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
3	General Course Introduction: aims and objectives
4	Chomskyan Trees: formal properties
6	Jean Petitot as a reader of Noam Chomsky: knots, strange attractors and limited recursion
6	Antoine Culioli as a reader of Noam Chomsky: treilles and cam structure
6	Between Chomsky and Culioli: Jean-Claude Milner
5	Conclusions: the Speech and its Diagrams