Italian Linguistics: Specific Problems II (A000028)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time** 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

B (semester 2)	Italian	Gent	seminar
			group work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Groothuis, Kim	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	B
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	5	B
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	B

Teaching languages

Italian

Keywords

Dialectology, history of the dialects of Italy, diachronic phonology and morphosyntax

Position of the course

This specialized course deepens the students' understanding of the linguistic reflection on the Italian language and other varieties spoken in Italy.
The course focuses on:
1) the major dialect groups within Italy;
2) the principal phonological and morphosyntactic changes from Latin to Italo-Romance;
During this course, students will also further develop their language skills.
- Reading skills: reading scientific articles and chapters;
- Listening skills: listening to the lectures;
- Writing skills: writing a short essay;
- Speaking skills: oral discussion in class, presentation of research project, oral exam.

Contents

The following topics will be discussed during the course:
1. Introduction: plurilingualism in Italy and major dialectal divisions
2. Northern Italian dialects
3. Southern Italian dialects
4. Central Italian dialects and Tuscan
5. Other (Italo?-)Romance languages spoken in Italy
6. Regional and popular Italian

Initial competences

- Familiarity with the basic notions of linguistic analysis (in phonology, morphology, and syntax);

- Thorough knowledge of the Italian language (expected competence in Italian: B2+).

Final competences

1 The student reaches the C1 proficiency level.
   The student can understand a wide range of texts. They can express ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. They can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. They can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
   • Reading skills: independent reading of articles and chapters; ppt presentations (self-study; lectures; tutorials)
   • Listening skills: lectures; understanding the questions during the seminars / permanent evaluation moments (seminars; self study; seminar) guided exercises)
   • Writing skills: paper; ppt / handout for the microteaching session
   • Speaking skills: oral discussion (tutorials; oral final examination)
2 Insight into the theory: the student uses the linguistic terminology correctly. He/she has a knowledge of the major dialectal divisions of the Italian dialects and of the principal features of Northern, Central and Southern Italian dialects, and the ability to recognize them in texts;
3 Insight into the theory: the student can relate the content of the course to insights acquired in other linguistics courses.
4 Application of the theory: the student can independently analyse a text or data and can explain the most important linguistic features.
5 Research skills: the student can give a group presentation in which he / she situates, presents and analyses data.
6 Research skills: the student can independently search for, consult and critically report on scientific sources.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

• Group work: preparation of presentations; discussion of the presentation in the classroom with lecturer and fellow students
• Lectures: introductive and advanced classes on the subject of the course. During the lectures the students are supposed to take notes in addition to textbook and study materials provided.
• Seminar: during this type of lecture the lecturer gives examples of analysis of dialect texts/data. Dialect texts will be discussed and analysed in class.
• (Guided) self-study: students must independently study/analyze some texts.
• Peer teaching: The students study a subject or dialect and give a group presentation. They get a number of bibliographic references from the lecturer and they are expected to deepen the bibliographic research independently. They will prepare a short questionnaire as a group and they will interview (a) dialect speaker(s) together. The presentation is designed to discuss the data collected and to analyse these data with the lecturer and the fellow students. Students are supposed to approach the study subject in a critical manner. The students work both individually (through self-study) and in group (group work): the development of a collective presentation is intended as an exercise of teamwork.

** Because of COVID19 modified modalities can be used if necessary. **

Learning materials and price

• Loporcaro, Michele. 2009. *Profilo linguistico dei dialetti italiani*. Bari: Laterza. 24 euro
• Extra material will be distribuited in class and/or on Ufora
• Powerpoint presentations (downloadable after class from Ufora)

References

Non-obligatory literature:
- Grassi, Corrado, Alberto A. Sobrero & Tullio Telmon. 1997. *Fondamenti di dialettologia italiana*. Laterza
- Maiden, Martin & Mair Parry (eds.). 1997. *The dialects of Italy*. London: Routledge.

A more extensive reference list is available via Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours (by appointment).

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Presentation

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Presentation

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment:

- Group presentation during the course (40%): small group presentation on the data collected (in the same group) by interviewing a dialect speaker. The data should be used to test one or more hypotheses or answer (a) research question(s). The following competences will be evaluated: insights in the theory, application of the theory, research skills; spoken language skills.
- Active participation in classes and extra activities (such as guest lectures for Discovering linguistics - linguistic discoveries) (10%).

Exam:

- Oral exam (50%): students will be asked questions about the dialect groups, the linguistic phenomena discussed during the lectures and can recognize them in texts. Moreover, a question will be asked in relation to the research carried out for the group presentation.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 50% oral exam
- 40% group presentation
- 10% participation in class and short written reports on two guest lectures from the series Discovering Linguistics - Linguistic Discoveries (https://www.dlld.ugent.be/what-is-dlld/)
If different group members clearly show a different degree of input, then the final mark per student belonging to the same group can still differ.
When the student obtains less than 10/20 for the exam, they can no longer pass the course unit as a whole. If the total score does turn out to be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest fail mark (9/20).
Students who eschew the presentation or the oral exam, can no longer obtain a pass mark for the course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-passable mark (i.e. 7/20).

Facilities for Working Students

- Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance with an alternative assignment instead.
- Possibility of rescheduling of the examination to a different time.
- Feedback can be given by appointment during and after office hours.
Working students can arrange a personalized study programme with the lecturer. The program will include scientific articles, book or handbook chapters that can be autonomously studied.