Language: mind and culture

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020) **Review date: 28-04-2019**

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: Philosophy, Language, Literature Theory Department

Coordinating teacher: PAVON LUCERO, MARIA VICTORIA

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

This course aims that the students achieve the following competences and skills:

- Knowing and understanding the main theories about human language.
- Knowing and understanding the main theories that have tried to explain the relation between language and mind.
- Knowing and understanding the cultural dimension of language.
- Examining and understanding the relation between the language and the social processes that configure meanings.
- Acquiring methodological instruments that allow to analize and understand the elements involved in the relation between language, mind and culture.
- Knowing the most relevant bibliography on the topic.
- Ability to use oral and written methods of study and analysis.
- Ability to produce academic texts related to the matter.

As a result of the learning process, the student is expected to know the main problems related to mental and cultural dimensions of language (as well as the theories that have analized them), to have acquired the conceptual and methodological tools to deal with them, and to be able to use the bibliography on the topic to elaborate a brief paper with academic and conceptual accuracy.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. Introduction: mind and culture, the double dimension of human language.
2. Homo loquens:
    - 2.1. How it all started? The origins of language.
    - 2.2. Neurological basis of language.
    - 2.3. A portuguese was amazed...: the problem of Plato (language acquisition).
    - 2.4. Language processing.
    - 2.5. Sign languages.
3. Language, culture and cognition:
    - 3.1. Cognitive, social and linguistic categories.
    - 3.2. Do we look at the world through our language? Language and though: linguistic relativism.
    - 3.3. Metaphors.
    - 3.4. Gender and language.
4. The evolution of languages: intralinguistic and cultural factors:
    - 4.1. Linguistic policies.
    - 4.2. Standarization.
    - 4.3. Language and dialect.
    - 4.4. Linguistic nationalism.
    - 4.5. Minority languages.
5. Language-culture communication.
    - 5.1. Intercultural communication.
    - 5.2. Pragmatics.
6. Writing systems.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

During teaching sessions, learning activities such as the following will be conducted:

- Teacher¿s presentations of general contents and readings.
- Comments on the course reading and related activities.

- Group work.
- Exercises to be solved individually.
- Oral presentations.

In addition to that, students will be expected to complete reading assignments, and to prepare the exercises prior to each tutorial session. They can also attend tutorial sessions and must complete an end-of-term paper.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Active participation during teaching and tutorial sessions (40%) and end-of-term paper on any of the course¿s topics, according to teacher¿s indications (60%).

% end-of-term-examination:	60
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	40

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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