



# UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

Anno Accademico 2015/2016

## GLOTTOLOGY B

<b>Enrollment year</b>	2015/2016
<b>Academic year</b>	2015/2016
<b>Regulations</b>	DM270
<b>Academic discipline</b>	L-LIN/01 (GLOTTOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS)
<b>Department</b>	DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES
<b>Course</b>	HUMANITIES
<b>Curriculum</b>	PERCORSO COMUNE
<b>Year of study</b>	1°
<b>Period</b>	(21/09/2015 - 23/12/2015)
<b>ECTS</b>	6
<b>Lesson hours</b>	36 lesson hours
<b>Language</b>	ITALIAN
<b>Activity type</b>	ORAL TEST
<b>Teacher</b>	CRISTOFARO SONIA (titolare) - 6 ECTS
<b>Prerequisites</b>	There are no prerequisites.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	The course will provide an overview of the structural diversity of human languages, and how the relevant structures develop over time.
<b>Course contents</b>	<p>The course will provide an overview of the structural diversity of human languages, and how the relevant structures develop over time. The grammar of human languages is not static. Rather, the structures attested in individual languages (e.g. case markers, prepositions, particular types of verbal forms, conjunctions, articles, possessive constructions) develop over time through the reinterpretation of preexisting constructions, which typically have different meanings and functions. Such processes of reinterpretation will be illustrated based on data from ancient and modern European languages, as well as languages from different families and geographical areas (such as African,</p>

Australian, American, Austronesian, and South-East Asian languages). While the structures attested in the world languages are diverse, and often very different from those familiar from European languages, the mechanisms underlying the development of these structures are usually the same from one language to another, independently of geographical location or genetic affiliation. This makes it possible to define a number of general principles that govern the way in which languages evolve over time.

**Teaching methods**

Lectures

**Reccomended or required readings**

Classroom materials will be presented providing a detailed description of all course topics and relevant references (these materials will also be made available on the web). References will include a number of standard textbooks covering exam topics, as well as several reference works that can optionally be used for in-depth study of specific topics. Classroom materials can be used as a basic reference, and should be combined with selected parts of one or more of the textbooks indicated in the reference list. Students are welcome to chose any of the latter, through the following are particularly recommended:

Anttila, Raimo  
1989 An introduction to historical and comparative linguistics. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 2 ed.

McMahon?, April S.  
1994 Understanding language change. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

**Assessment methods**

Student assessment is made through exam papers consisting of exercises and questions on course topics. Some of the course lectures will be devoted to solving exercises of the same type as those in the exam papers.

**Further information**

Student assessment is made through exam papers consisting of exercises and questions on course topics. Some of the course lectures will be devoted to solving exercises of the same type as those in the exam papers.

**Sustainable development goals - Agenda 2030**

[Sbl legenda sviluppo sostenibile](#)