## SYLLABUS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>Introduction to Databases</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COURSE CODE</td>
<td>76209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENTIFIC SECTOR</td>
<td>ING-INF/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEGREE</td>
<td>Bachelor in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMESTER</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDITS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL LECTURING HOURS   | 40                         |
| TOTAL LAB HOURS         | 20                         |

**PREREQUISITES**

Students should have a solid mathematical foundation and be familiar with the basic programming concepts, data structures and algorithms. These prerequisites are covered in the following courses: Analysis, Introduction to Programming, Programming Project, and Data Structures and Algorithms.

**COURSE PAGE**

https://ole.unibz.it/
http://www.inf.unibz.it/~calvanese/teaching/idb/

**SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

Type of course: “caratterizzante”

Scientific area: „discipline informatiche“

Students attending this course will have acquired the techniques and methods to address problems of database design, and to make use of the basic functionalities (definition, update, and querying of the database) of database management systems in the context of development and deployment of information systems. In addition, students will be able to develop applications that programmatically interact with a database management system. The course explicitly refers to relational databases and to the corresponding database management systems based on the SQL language. However, the taught methods and principles are of a more general nature, and can be applied also in those contexts where data models and database systems different from relational ones are adopted.

**LECTURER**

Diego Calvanese

**SCIENTIFIC SECTOR OF THE LECTURER**

ING-INF/05
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACHING LANGUAGE</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE HOURS</td>
<td>Announced on the webpage of the lecturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHING ASSISTANT</td>
<td>Diego Calvanese Davide Lanti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE HOURS</td>
<td>Announced on the webpage of the teaching assistant.</td>
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</table>
| LIST OF TOPICS COVERED | • Conceptual modeling of databases  
• Relational data model  
• Relational algebra, relational calculus and SQL  
• Database design theory with normalization theory  
• Procedural language extensions to SQL  
• Using SQL in database applications: API, embedded SQL |
| TEACHING FORMAT | Frontal classroom lectures plus exercises, and project work |

| LEARNING OUTCOMES | Knowledge and understanding  
• know in detail the principles of relational database systems and methods for designing and developing databases;  
Applying knowledge and understanding  
• be able to develop and query relational databases;  
• be able to apply the own knowledge to the analysis, design, development and testing of information systems which satisfy given requirements;  
Ability to make judgments  
• be able to collect useful data and to judge information systems and their applicability;  
• be able to work autonomously according to the own level of knowledge;  
Communication skills  
• be able to work in teams to implement software systems;  
Ability to learn  
• have acquired learning capabilities that enable them to carry out project activities in companies, public institutions or in distributed development communities;  
• be able to learn the innovative features of state-of-the-art technologies and information systems; |

| ASSESSMENT | • Project work to test knowledge application skills and communication skills, done in small groups to present their work orally.  
• Written exam with verification questions and questions to test knowledge application skills. |
| ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE | English |
| EVALUATION CRITERIA AND | Assessment 1: written exercises (70% of the mark)  
Assessment 2: project work (30% of the mark) |
### Criteria for Awarding Marks

Relevant for assessment 1: clarity of answers, ability to recall principles and methods used in database systems, skill in applying knowledge such as developing and querying databases.

Relevant for assessment 2: ability to work in teams, skill in applying knowledge in a practical setting, ability to summarize in own words.

- The final mark is computed as a weighted average of the written exam mark (70%) and the project mark (30%).
- At the written exam, which lasts at least 2 hours, the student will have to carry out the design of a database, following a given specification. Moreover (s)he will have to formulate SQL queries, and possibly answer in written form questions about the topics covered in the course.
- To be admitted to the written exam (Assessment 1), the student must have discussed the project (Assessment 2), and the project must have been evaluated positively. In other words, **without having passed the project, the written exam cannot be taken.**
- To pass the exam, the student has then to pass also the written exam, in addition to the project.

In case of a positive mark, the project mark will count for all 3 regular exam sessions of the Academic Year (i.e., if the student fails or does not take the written exam, (s)he keeps the project mark and only needs to retake the written exam).

### Required Readings

Course Lecture Notes, made available in OLE.

### Supplementary Readings


### Software Used

PostgreSQL Database Management System.

RADB relational algebra interpreter (Java version).