

Language Variation and Change (A001770)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

Offering	Language	Location	Teaching Method	Hours
A (semester 1)	English	Gent	online lecture	10.0 h
			seminar	15.0 h
			guided self-study	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Breitbarth, Anne LW06 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

Programme	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature	6	A
Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective)	6	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

variational linguistics, language change

Position of the course

The course aims at providing students with a sound understanding of:

- the relation between language variation and the language system, with examples taken from different languages.
- language variation as a mirror of language change.
- theories, models and methods concerning the analysis of spatial and social variation and diachronic change.

Contents

This course deals with language variation and change with particular focus on syntactic variation and change. It consists of two larger components: a theoretical part which is mainly organised around discussing seminal literature on language variation and change, and an empirical research project studying a chosen syntactic change with the help of a parsed corpus (for selected languages; possible choices a.o.: English, French, Portuguese, Icelandic, Old and Middle Low German, Chinese). The work with parsed corpora will be taught using video and text tutorials, as well as one practical session.

COVID-19:

As a consequence of the Corona crisis the following temporary adaptations will be implemented for the academic year 20-21:

- *In principle the course is foreseen to be taught on campus.*
- *Depending on the evolution of the situation, the course may be taught online (both synchronously and asynchronously) (videos in preparation of class discussion, livestream of the interactive class discussion, recorded livestream for asynchronous processing of the material taught)*
- *Online Q&A moments will be available.*

Initial competences

Master in a linguistic discipline or other certificate which guarantees a sufficient scientific previous knowledge in linguistics.

Final competences

- 1 To have a thorough insight into the structure of language variation and language change.

- 2 To be able to apply both theories and methodologies to new research designs.
- 3 Academic writing skills.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, seminar, seminar: coached exercises, online lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- independent work/guided independent study: preparation of weekly readings, discussion in class
- guided exercises: working with parsed historical corpora

Learning materials and price

A selected bibliography (made available via Ufora).

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individually, during and after class.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Paper (report on own research project). A second chance is possible.

Part of the evaluation (5%) can be earned by attending (online) lectures such as those from the series Discovering Linguistics-Linguistic Discoveries or Abralín Ao Vivo. The condition is that those lectures must relate to the topic of "Language Variation and Change". In order to make this count, at least two lectures must be attended and a small paper about the content of the lecture must be submitted.

Calculation of the examination mark

Paper: 100%.

(or 95% in case of submitting minipapers about lectures on Language Variation and Change, which then count for 5%)

Facilities for Working Students

The student has to report on a set list of literature and has to write a paper.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy (<https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>)