Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

English Linguistics: Generative Grammar (A002590)

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>150 h</td>
<td>45.0 h</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A (semester 2)</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Gent</th>
<th>seminar</th>
<th>10.0 h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lecture: plenary</td>
<td>10.0 h</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>exercises</td>
<td>15.0 h</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>seminar: coached</td>
<td>10.0 h</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>exercises</td>
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Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simonenko, Alexandra</th>
<th>LW06</th>
<th>lecturer-in-charge</th>
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Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

| Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - German) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Greek) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Latin) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Scandinavian Studies) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Spanish) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - English) | 5 | A |
| Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature | 5 | A |

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

language, linguistics, English, generative grammar, argumentation in syntax, formal syntax, formal semantics

Position of the course

This advanced seminar presents the generative approach to syntax and semantics, with special attention for methodological issues and for the application to English data. The seminar will provide the students with the tools for analyzing sentences from a generative perspective.

This course stimulates English proficiency by developing argumentation skills and the concomitant use of organisational patterns and connectives typical of scientific structured discourse (C1).

Contents

Presentation of the generative approach to the grammar of English. The paradigm

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studied is a combination of the generative grammar developed by Noam Chomsky and formal semantics originating in the works of Richard Montague. This approach focuses on defining the primitive building blocks of the sentence and on the relation between syntactic structure and interpretation. After a general introduction to the methodology of this approach, the focus will be on working out syntactic and semantic analyses of English data. It will also be demonstrated how the generative approach can be used to understand language variation and language change. Throughout the course attention will be paid to the interaction between empirical data and theoretical analysis.

Initial competences

Students must have taken at least two English Linguistics courses from Ba2 or Ba3 or have acquired equivalent competences.

Final competences

1. Development of theoretical argumentation using the generative concepts and formal logic.
2. Representing clause structure by means of tree diagram with argumentation for structure.
3. Using formal logic and set theory to represent language meaning in a compositional way.
4. Analysis of empirical data (constructed examples, attested data drawn from (journalistic) prose, and a historical corpus) using the generative framework.
5. Illustration of theoretical hypotheses on the basis of empirical material from contemporary (journalistic) English.
6. Application of theoretical hypotheses on empirical material from contemporary English.
7. Evaluation of theoretical assumptions on the basis of constructed or attested empirical data.
8. Identifying deductive and inductive forms of argumentation.
9. Discussion of theoretical and/or empirical problems in idiomatic English.

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

Lecture, seminar, lecture: plenary exercises, seminar: coached exercises.

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures, reading, in class exercises (both individual and in group) and individual contributions in the form of short oral presentations of reading material and/or of exercises.

Learning materials and price

Weekly handouts
Cost (estimated): 30,00 EUR.

References

To be determined.

Course content-related study coaching

In class feedback.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Open book examination, oral examination

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

Open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

(Approved)
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

*Assessment moment (continuous evaluation)*
Continuous assessment: 4 homework assignments. The questions will concern the application of the theory to authentic or constructed sentences, and the evaluation of theoretical points in view of the empirical data.

*Assessment moment (oral exam)*
Oral exam with written preparation (open book). The questions will concern the application of the theory to authentic or constructed sentences, and the evaluation of theoretical points in view of the empirical data. The focus will be on argumentation using formal concepts.

Calculation of the examination mark
Continuous evaluation (60%) + exam (40%)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
2. Possible rescheduling of an oral examination with written preparation to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the [monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy](#)

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