

A Basic Course in Linguistics

Type of course: E-Ling-A (**second part** of *Basismodul Linguistics*)
Time: Tuesday 8-10 a.m. (08:15 - 09:45)
Venue: LS1 R.209a
Workload: **4.5 ECTS points**



Course description

This course is a direct follow-up seminar on last term's overview lecture on introducing English linguistics. The seminar is devoted to a more in-depth study of the different branches of linguistics and, in particular, to the analytical practice of the concepts introduced in the lecture.

Requirements and marking system

Regular attendance and active class participation
Thorough preparation of each session (obligatory readings and a short homework assignment each week)
Final exam (covering both parts of the module)

Readings, assignments and classes

The course is based on obligatory **readings** (weekly chapters), which are also the foundation for the final exam (i.e. everything covered by the readings is potentially relevant to the final exam). The **seminar** is essentially a platform for discussing your understanding of the readings; we will systematise certain aspects of the texts and focus on selected problem areas, but we will not go through the reading bit by bit (this is your preparatory task!). The **assignments** ensure your continuous progress during the course and present you with exercises designed to practise exam-style problems and skills.

An important note: The official workload for this course amounts to a sum total of **135 hours of work** (4.5 ECTS points). This includes your weekly attendance (19 hours including the final exam) and the preparation of the final exam. The lion's share of the workload, however, consists of your **weekly preparation at home** (revision, reading, assignments)! It is reasonable to allow for **3-4 hours each week** for this task! Considering the number and extent of the topics covered by this module, it is absolutely crucial to study continuously rather than starting to prepare for the exam during the last week(s) only. If you fail to do so, your chances of passing the course are bound to be very low.

The course management system

The course management system of the university, **OLAT**, will be the online platform of this class. It is there that you can find follow-up handouts, slides, etc. Important information on the organisation of the course (e.g. announcements etc.) will also be distributed via OLAT (to your email address). Therefore, please enrol into this course on OLAT (the password was announced in class) and stay updated.

Office hours

Please take advantage of the office hours on Mondays. This is the place to talk about your progress in the course and any difficulties you may experience, as well as to receive individual feedback on assignments.

Course programme (syllabus)

	DATE	TOPIC	MAJOR ISSUES
1	14.04.15	Introduction to the course. Review of basic notions in linguistics.	<i>Course structure, organisation and requirements. Revisiting the goals, working principles and branches of linguistics.</i>
2	21.04.15	Foundations of language and linguistics	<i>Language as a system of signs. Design features and core functions of human language. Research perspectives on language.</i>
3	28.04.15	The sound system of English (I): Phonetics and segmental phonology.	<i>Articulatory phonetics and the IPA. Phones and phonemic organisation of English. Allophones.</i>
4	05.05.15	The sound system of English (II): Connected speech and suprasegmental phonology.	<i>Processes of connected speech and their relevance to Present-day English phenomena. Suprasegmental characteristics of English.</i>
5	12.05.15	Morphology (I): The internal structure of words.	<i>Types of morphemes and their functions. Contextual shapes of morphemes (allomorphy).</i>
6	19.05.15	Morphology (II): Morphological processes.	<i>Inflection and derivation. Word-formation processes.</i>
7	26.05.15	Syntax (I): Basic concepts. Overview of lexical categories (word classes).	<i>Categorization, constituency, form-function distinctions. Principles of lexical categorization.</i>
8	02.06.15	Syntax (II): Lexical and phrasal categories.	<i>Properties of the word classes and phrase types of English. Visualising syntactic structure in tree diagrams.</i>
9	09.06.15	Syntax (III): Syntactic functions in the clause.	<i>The logic and representation of syntactic relations.</i>
10	16.06.15	Syntax (IV): Clause structure and transitivity. Analytical practice.	<i>Basic clause patterns of English and approaches to their classification.</i>
11	23.06.15	Semantics (I): Describing linguistic meaning.	<i>Levels of meaning. Decompositional and prototype approaches to lexical semantics.</i>
12	30.06.15	Semantics (II): Lexical relations.	<i>Types of associative relations in the mental lexicon.</i>
13	07.07.15	Pragmatics: Meaning in interaction.	<i>Speech acts, inference and conversational implicatures.</i>

Course literature

- Bieswanger, Markus and Annette Becker (2010). *Introduction to English Linguistics*. 2nd ed. Tübingen and Basel: Francke. [Chs.3 and 6]
Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey K. Pullum (2002). *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [selected passages]
Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey K. Pullum (2005). *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [selected passages]
Parker, Frank and Kathryn Riley (2010). *Linguistics for Non-Linguists: A Primer with Exercises*. 5th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. [Ch.2]
Plag, Ingo, Maria Braun, Sabine Lappe and Mareile Schramm (2009). *Introduction to English Linguistics*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. [Ch.3]