

## Introduction to Linguistics (II)

Type of course: BA.AA.SW01 (second part of *Basismodul Linguistics*)  
Time: Tuesday 10-12 a.m. (Group 1) or 12-2 p.m. (Group 2)  
Venue: Carl-Zeiss-Str. 3, SR 384 (both groups)  
Workload: 5 ECTS



### Course description

The second part of the introductory module in English linguistics is chiefly concerned with the description and analysis of linguistic meaning: What and how do words 'mean' something? How are words organised in the mental lexicon? Why do sentences often 'mean' so much more to us than what is expressed by the words they contain? Why can linguistic forms often have multiple meanings, and how can we (and why should we) reliably distinguish between these meanings? How can the individual elements of a sentence be arranged in order to communicate our message effectively, i.e. in order to emphasise the right things, present things as given or new, and background things that we presuppose? How do form-meaning pairings vary in a linguistic community, i.e. according to regional, social and functional factors? In order to answer these (and other) fundamental questions about language, the course will introduce basic notions of four important branches of linguistics, viz. semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis and sociolinguistics. It will be rounded off by an introduction to doing actual linguistic research, by looking at some important aspects of how linguistic research questions are typically asked and answered in a scientifically appropriate way.

### Requirements and marking system

- Thorough preparation of each session (obligatory reading and a short homework assignment each week)
- Active class participation
- Final exam

The final mark of this part of the module will be based on the **exam**. In order to be able to *enrol* for the exam, however, you have to submit and **pass** at least **three** of your **homework assignments** during the semester. If you fail to do so, you cannot take part in the final exam, which results in failing the course!

### Preparatory texts, assignments and classes

The course is based on obligatory **preparatory texts** (weekly chapters), which are also the foundation for the final exam (i.e. unless otherwise indicated, everything covered by the texts is potentially relevant to the final exam). The **seminar** is essentially a platform for discussing your understanding of the texts; we will systematise certain aspects of the texts and focus on selected problem areas, but we will not go through the chapters bit by bit (this is your preparatory task!). The **assignments** ensure your continuous progress during the course and confront 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 **150 hours of work** (5 ECTS). This includes your weekly attendance (24 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 **at least 3 hours each week** for this task!

### The course management system

The course management system for this course is **WORDWISE** ([www.wordwise.uni-jena.de](http://www.wordwise.uni-jena.de)). It will be used for disseminating **materials** (texts, assignments and handouts) and **information**. Therefore, please enrol into this course on WORDWISE (the password was announced in class) and **make sure your email address on WORDWISE is valid and that you check it regularly!**

## Course programme (syllabus)

DATE	TOPIC	CENTRAL QUESTIONS
1 09.04.19	<b>Introduction to the course:</b> Goals, organisation and requirements. Transition from Introduction (I) to Introduction (II).	<i>What am I going to learn in this course? How does this part of the module relate to the previous one? What are the requirements and expectations in this course?</i>
2 16.04.19	<b>Basic notions of semantics:</b> Meanings as concepts. The semiotic triangle. Layers of meaning and connotations.	<i>What do we need to describe "the meaning" of a word? How exactly do words relate to things in the world? Why do words have several 'layers' of meaning?</i>
3 23.04.19	<b>The nature of concepts:</b> Classical and prototype approaches to categorisation. Concepts and frames.	<i>How can we characterise the conceptual content of a word?</i>
4 30.04.19	<b>Semantic relations:</b> Syntagmatic semantic relations (collocations) and paradigmatic semantic relations (synonymy, opposites, hyponymy, meronymy).	<i>How are words organised in our 'mental lexicons'? How can we study the preferred combinations of words in actual language use?</i>
5 07.05.19	<b>Meaning variation:</b> Vagueness versus ambiguity. Polysemy versus homonymy.	<i>Why does one and the same form sometimes have many different meanings? And how distinct are those meanings?</i>
6 14.05.19	<b>Semantic change and the origins of meaning variation:</b> Metaphor and metonymy. Conversion and grammaticalization.	<i>By which historical processes do forms acquire multiple meanings in the first place? How systematic and widespread are these processes? Where do grammatical words come from?</i>
7 21.05.19	<b>Sentence meaning:</b> Compositionality and idiomaticity. Propositions. Structural ambiguity. Relations between propositions (entailment, contradiction, presupposition).	<i>Can we transfer our analytical principles from word meaning onto the meaning of larger units, i.e. phrases and sentences? What exactly does a sentence 'mean', and how can we characterise relations between sentences?</i>
8 28.05.19	<b>Basic notions of pragmatics:</b> Performatives, speech acts, illocutions. Implicatures, the Cooperative Principle and its conversational maxims.	<i>How we 'do things with words': Distinguishing the semantic meaning of sentences from their communicative (= pragmatic) force. Inferences and how to account for them.</i>
9 04.06.19	<b>Pragmatic principles in action:</b> The notion of context. Flouting versus violating maxims. Linguistic politeness.	<i>More on pragmatic inferencing: Background assumptions, the purposes of flouting conversational maxims and the role of politeness in pragmatic inferencing.</i>
10 11.06.19	<b>Information structure:</b> Basic categories of information structure and information-packaging constructions of English.	<i>How can information be structured to create pragmatically sound and effective stretches of discourse?</i>
11 18.06.19		
12 25.06.19	<b>Sociolinguistics:</b> Dimensions of variation in language.	<i>How does language use vary according to geographical, social and contextual factors?</i>
13 02.07.19	<b>Empirical research in linguistics:</b> Hypotheses, variables, plots and basics of statistical testing.	<i>How do we ask and answer research questions in linguistics in appropriate ways?</i>
14 09.07.19	<b>Review and conclusion</b>	<i>Bring any open questions, problems etc. to class, and do not hesitate to ask them!</i>
18.07.19	<b>Final exam:</b> 14-16h, CZ3, HS1.	
19.09.19	<b>Retake exam:</b> 14-16h, Am Steiger 3, Haus IV, Döbereiner Hörsaal.	