

Syllabus v20202_1

Tue 08:30-10:00

Ses	Date	Topic	Reading assignments
1	29.09.	INTRO & SOUNDS	General introduction
2	06.10.		General introduction Phonetics
3	13.10.		Phonetics Phonology
4	20.10.		Phonology Intermediate summary
5	27.10	WORDS	Basic concepts, inflection and derivation
6	04.11.		Word formation & morphological theory
7	11.11.		Typology Lexical storage and processing
8	18.11.		Lexical semantics Intermediate summary
9	25.11.	SENTENCES	Basics Merge & Move: Constituency, weak features
10	02.12.		Merge & Move: Strong features, TP Merge & Move: Adjuncts, infinitives, passives
11	09.12.		Merge & Move: PRO, nominal, BE, [Decl], [Q]
12	16.12.		CPs: Embedded clauses & questions
13	23.12.		Parametric differences, German Intermediate summary
14	Week before exam		General revision, wrap-up, course evaluation, outlook Extra online class

Textbook:

Radford, A., Atkinson, M., Britain, D., Clahsen, H., & Spencer, A. (2009). *Linguistics: An introduction* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Further reading:

Fasold, R. W., & Connor-Linton, J. (Eds.). (2014). *An introduction to language and linguistics* (2nd. ed.). Cambridge University Press.

O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., & Aronoff, M. (Eds.). (2010). *Contemporary linguistics: An introduction* (6. ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.

Saeed, J. I. (2015). *Semantics* (4th ed.). Blackwell.

Contact information

Office Hour: Tue 14:00 – 15:00 or by email appointment in Schloss, EW 293
E-mail: thoma@uni-mannheim.de, Phone: +49 621 / 181-3157

Course objectives and conditions

Contents

This course is designed to introduce beginning students to the central terms and topics in current (English) linguistics. Topics to be dealt with include phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax, major (syntactic) contrasts between English and German. We will also have some brief looks at how these topics are relevant in language acquisition, language storage and processing in the human brain, and language variation over time and in society.

Aims of this Class

- Know the basics of synchronic linguistics
- Practise linguistic analyses in the areas of sounds, words, and sentences
- Find out what is interesting to you in linguistics
- Learn to work with English textbooks
- Learn to accumulate and aggregate information from different sources

Attendance

- You should not miss more than 2 sessions to maximize your learning outcomes (and exam success)

Requirements

- Passing the final exam
- Preparation of a linguistic file (due at exam day)
- Participation in a 90 min (psycho-)linguistic experiment. We will inform you via email and on the website below about opportunities to participate.
 - <https://www.phil.uni-mannheim.de/anglistik/abteilungen/anglistik-i/forschung/ma-eye-lab-a-i/>

Tutorials

Tutorials are **obligatory for all B.A. students** and participation is highly recommended to all other students. In these tutorials, you will have the chance to ask more questions and do more exercises. Please make use of this opportunity. The tutorials start in the second week of the semester. We offer several tutorials. You can visit any of these. Tutors and times of tutorials will be announced in class and in Portal2.

Exam

- There is one end of term exam for all students of all Introduction Linguistics courses.
- All students have to register for the exam in the Studierendenportal when registration is open. The *Studienbüro* will inform you when this is.
- Exam questions reflect the structure of the course. Major topic areas account for equal proportions of the exam, i.e. 1/3 of questions on Intro/Sounds, 1/3 on Words, 1/3 on Sentences. These proportions are reflected in the scoring of the exam.

Grade components

- Exam result accounts for 75% of the final grade
- Linguistic file accounts for 25%
- Oral participation in class can influence the final grade positively (+.3 grade points)

Linguistic File

The aim of this assignment is that you demonstrate that you know the basics of linguistics and can apply them to a small sample of linguistic data.

- Find **authentic**, interesting, **real-world examples** of language (English, German, or other).
- Analyze these **4 examples** with the linguistic knowledge and skills you learned in class.
- You need to document
 - one example on a topic from “Sounds”
 - one example on a topic from “Words”
 - one example on a topic from “Sentences”
 - one example on a topic of your choice (General Introduction, Sounds, Words, Sentences)
- The **structure** of examples in the linguistic file must be as follows. The description of each example and its analysis should take 1 to 1.5 pages.
 1. Informative heading, e.g., *A. Sounds example: Minimal pair*
 2. Printed reproduction of sample material. Example data can be written text, photos, or transcripts or screenshots of audio or video data.
 3. Reference. Indicate the source of the example clearly (book citations, URLs, place and date for on photos etc.) next to the printed reproduction (no footnotes).
 4. Relevance. Name the linguistic phenomenon you want to illustrate and explain it briefly.
 5. Analysis and interpretation. Analyze and explain how the example is related to the phenomenon/ theory.
 - The linguistic file needs to be submitted as a PDF file. Your document needs a title page and a bibliography. Follow the formal requirements as laid out in the “ABCs of Style” and “Avoid Plagiarism”. Both documents and further materials are available as PDF files at <https://www.phil.uni-mannheim.de/anglistik/studium/wissenschaftliche-arbeiten/>

Grading scales

Percent	Grade	ECTS-Grade	Description	Beschreibung
95-100	1.0	A	excellent	hervorragende Leistung
89-94	1.3	A		
84-88	1.7	B	very good	sehr gut
78-83	2.0	B		
73-77	2.3	C	good	gut
67-72	2.7	D		
62-66	3.0	D	satisfactory	befriedigend
56-61	3.3	D		
51-55	3.7	E	sufficient	ausreichend
50	4.0	E		
0-49	5.0	F	fail	ungenügend