



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
LALI-141	General Linguistics	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
LALI-140	Languages and Literature	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	Linguistics	English
Level of Course	Lecturer	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr Maria Economidou-Kogetsidis	1 st
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The course aims to enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of English language and linguistic theory and practice, as well as the terms, methods and points of view in general and applied linguistics. The main objectives of the course are therefore to:

- develop a knowledge and understanding of the main areas of English language;
- provide students with the skills to describe English language in terms words, grammar (morphology and syntax), and meaning (semantics and pragmatics).
- enable students to consider how they can analyse learners' language to understand their language development.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. discuss and critically analyse main ideas from various areas in the field of linguistics;
2. apply morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic analysis to English language;
3. critically discuss some of the 'applied' areas of language study;
4. engage in reviewing the relevant academic literature in relation to the topics covered.

Course Content:**The Origins of language**

- The divine explanation
- The natural-sound explanation
- Glossogenetics
- The Genetic explanation
- The “language gene” and the Innateness Hypothesis
- Interactional function of la language vs. transactional function of language

The Unique Properties of language

- Displacement, Creativity, Arbitrariness, Cultural transmission, Discreteness,
- Duality, the Pragmatics of the language

Animal communication and human language

- The complexity of animal communication systems;
- Difference between ‘communication’ and ‘language’;
- Experiments with non-human primates
- Clever Hans Phenomenon/Controversy’.

First Language Acquisition

- Biological factor vs. the social factor in L1 acquisition.
- Stages of L1 acquisition.
- Key features of ‘motherese/caretaker’ speech.
- Innateness Hypothesis and the Critical Age Hypothesis.
- Genie’s case as a test for the Critical age hypothesis.

Brain and Language

- Brain: the source of human language
- Parts of the Brain
- Right hemisphere – Left hemisphere
- Areas that have a particular role to play in language processing (Broca’s area, Wernicke’s area, the motor cortex)
- Aphasia
- Slips of the tongue

Syntax

- Structural ambiguity
- Syntactic categories (NP, VP, PP)
- Grammatical symbols in syntactic description
- Phrase structure rules
- Phrase structure trees

Morphology

- Types of Morphemes
- Word formation process
- Word coinage
- Borrowing

- Loan translation
- Compounding
- Blending
- Clipping
- Backformation
- Conversion
- Derivation
- Acronyms
- Onomatopoeia

Semantics – analysing language from a semantic point of view

- Conceptual meaning as central to semantic analysis;
- Semantic features as a way of analysing meaning;
- Lexical relation of Synonymy; Antonymy; Hyponymy, Polysemy and Homonymy;
- Different types of anonyms (gradable, non-gradable, converses, reverses);
- Semantic analysis using semantic roles (agent/theme/instrument etc.)
- Paraphrase, Entailment, Contradiction

Pragmatics – analysing language from a pragmatic point of view.

- Distinction between the semantic and pragmatic meaning of language;
- The significance of context in pragmatics;
- Difference between a sentence and an utterance;
- Intended speaker's meaning vs. the meaning of words and phrases;
- Deixis as a pragmatic phenomenon;
- Reference, Inference and Anaphora as pragmatic phenomena;
- Speech acts performed through an utterance.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, seminars, practical activities.

Assessment Methods:

Assignment, Participation, Final exam

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Yule, George	The Study of Language	Cambridge University Press	2015 (6 th edition)	978-1107658172

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Additional book(s)/reading material that would support the course (but not a requirement).

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Introduction to English Linguistics	Plag Ingo, Maria Braun, Sabine Arndlappe, Mareile Schramm	Mouton de Gruyter	2015	978- 3110376180
Introducing Language in Use: A Coursebook	Merrison Andrew John, Aileen Bloomer, Patrick Griffiths, Christopher Hall	Routledge.	2014	978- 0415583053