



COURSE (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Trends in Contemporary Linguistics / Šiuolaikinės kalbotyros kryptys	

Lecturer (s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Axel Holvoet	Faculty of Philology Center for General Linguistics

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
2nd	Obligatory

Mode of delivery	The period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face, seminars	Autumn	English

Requirements for students	
Preliminary requirements: English B 2 –C1	Additional requirements (if any):

Course (module) credits	Student's complete workload	Contact hours	Individual study
5	150	48	102

Course (module) aims: competences to be developed
<p>The course aims to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a general orientation in the theoretical context of contemporary linguistic research. <p>The student should also acquire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to read and analyze linguistic texts, understand their theoretical assumptions and choose a theoretical framework for their research. <p>A further aim is to develop analytical and critical skills and the ability to work individually and in groups, aspire to high scholarly quality, and continually raise one's level of competence.</p>

Aims of the course (module)	Teaching methods	Assessment methods
<p>On completion the student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will have more insight into the main objects of linguistic discussions in the 20th and early 21st c., the theoretical choices, and the place of linguistics among the cognitive sciences - will be better prepared to read and critically assess linguistic literature, and to use insights gained from it in her/his linguistic research - will realize the need for a linguist to keep abreast of developments in linguistic thought. 	<p>Lectures, participation in seminars, reading, and individual study</p> <p>Lectures, participation in seminars, reading, and individual study</p> <p>Lectures, participation in seminars, reading, and individual study</p>	<p>Two essays (mid-term and term-final).</p>

Topics	Contact hours	Individual study hours and assignments
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	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory practice	practice	Sum of contact hours	Individual study	Assignments
The prehistory of modern linguistics: structuralism and its heritage. European and American structuralism. The theory of the sign, the <i>langue/parole</i> dichotomy, immanentism.	2		2					13/6	Reading, participation in seminars
Noam Chomsky's Generative Grammar, its basic ideas and assumptions as a starting point for linguistic discussions. Cartesianism, nativism, deduction, modular structure, autonomous syntax, the syntax-semantics interface.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Carnie 6-23, Chomsky 2007)
Transformational Grammar.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Chomsky 2007)
Government and Binding Theory. The Principles and Parameters model. X-bar syntax.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Carnie 51-178)
Government and Binding Theory. Functional projections. Theta theory, grammar, and lexicon. Rules and constraints.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Carnie 2017-226)
Minimalism. The structure of the grammar. Merger, feature checking. The lexicon; roots.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars
Alternative generative grammars. Rule-based and constraint-based grammars. The prehistory of Construction Grammar.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Culicover & Jackendoff 2005)
Construction Grammar. Basic assumptions, notions, structure, terminology	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Fried & Östman 11-25)
Construction Grammar: the formalism.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Fried & Östman 25-40)
Construction Grammar: applications. Argument structure constructions, construction morphology etc.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Fried & Östman 11-41-75)
Cognitive Grammar. Origins, assumptions, aims. Categorization. General and specific linguistic endowment. The Embodied Mind hypothesis.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Ungerer & Schmid 24-45)
Cognitive strategies. Cognitive asymmetries. Figure and ground. Linguistic construal.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Ungerer & Schmid 163-202)
Langacker's Cognitive Grammar.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Langacker 93-127)
Applications of Cognitive Grammar. Radial networks. Prototypical definitions. Grammaticalization.	2							12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Brugman & Lakoff 1988, Ungerer & Schmid 321-327)
Functional-typological linguistics. The status of linguistic theorizing, framework-free linguistics.	2		2					12/6	Reading, participation in seminars (Haspelmath 2008)
Discussion of selected problems from different theoretical viewpoints.	2							30/12	Reading, participation in seminars
Iš viso	32		16					48	208/102

Assessment strategy	Weight	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Cumulative assessment	20 %	Throughout the semester	Activity during lectures and seminars
	80 %	Throughout the semester and the end of the semester	Two essays (mid-term and term-final)

Author	Year of publication	Title	Vol., issue	Publisher, URL
Basic readings				
Noam Chomsky	2007	The birth of generative grammar		<i>On Language</i> , New York-London: The New Press, 103-135
Andrew Radford	1997	Grammar, iš kn. <i>Syntax, A Minimalist Introduction</i>		Cambridge University Press
Mirjam Fried, Jan-Ola Östman	2004	A thumbnail sketch of Construction Grammar, iš kn. <i>Construction Grammar in a Cross-Linguistic Perspective</i>		Amsterdam: John Benjamins
Friedrich Ungerer, Hans-Jörg Schmid	2006	<i>An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics</i> (pasirinkti skyriai)		Harlow: Pearson Longman
Joan Bybee	1998	<i>A functionalist approach to language and its evolution</i>		<i>Evolution of Communication</i> 2(2): 249-278
Additional readings				
Martin Haspelmath	2008	Framework-free grammatical theory, iš kn. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis</i>		Oxford, OUP
Peter Culicover & Ray Jackendoff	2005	The goals of linguistic theory		Culicover & Jackendoff, <i>Simpler Syntax</i> , OUP, 9-26
Claudia Brugman & George Lakoff	1988	Cognitive typology and lexical networks		https://georgelakoff.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/cognitive-topology-and-lexical-networks-lakoff-and-brugman-1988.pdf

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