Universität Greifswald, Department of British and American Studies

Module: Introducing Linguistics

Module coordinator: Prof. Dr. Theresa Heyd

Lecturers in the academic year 2020/2021: Prof. Dr. Theresa Heyd, Dr. Morana Lukač

Student assistant, winter term 2020: Anika Witt

The module is part of the following study programs:

BA Anglistik (2020): Module 3, Introducing Linguistics

LA Gym (2020): Module 5, Introducing Linguistics

LA RegS (2020): Module 5, Introducing Linguistics

It is also open for the following expiring study programs:

BA Anglistik (2012): Module 5, Linguistics I

LA Gym (2012): Module 6, Linguistics 1

LA RegS (2012): Module 6, Linguistics 1

The module "Introducing Linguistics" is the first linguistic module in our English study programs. It begins in the winter term – usually your first semester – and covers the entire academic year. You conclude it at the end of the summer semester with a written exam (paper-based or online). In each semester, the module consists of a one-hour lecture (1 SWS) and an accompanying one-hour seminar (1 SWS). Thus, the module has a total of 4 SWS.

Structure and schedule

Scope of the class: this module is designed to give you a first, fundamental overview on English linguistics: what we know about the structure and use of language in general, and how this can be applied specifically to English. In order to do so, each semester will have a different focal point. We begin the module with a focus on structure; the title for the winter semester lecture is "The linguistic system and structures of English". Over the course of the winter term, we become familiar with structural and systemic approaches to the English language, its organization into different linguistic levels, how we can analyze them, and how they interact. In the summer term, we widen our scope; the title of the summer semester lecture is "English in use: social practice and global context". Over the course of the summer term, we learn how language works in applied contexts, how it is interwoven with variation, change and social practice, and how the usage of English specifically is shaped by its colonial past and its globalized present. At the end of the year, you will have mastered a first general overview on structural and social aspects of English linguistics, which will enable you to move on to the next modules in your study programs.

The two elements of the module – lecture and seminar – are scheduled to interact in the following way. The lecture is delivered online, as a prerecorded video, uploaded on our shared Moodle platform. You

can watch and review the lecture on your own schedule and according to your own needs. Each weekly lecture will be available as soon as possible; at the latest on the Friday preceding the scheduled time slot. The accompanying seminar takes place during fixed time slots, either on-campus or in a digital (live) format. You need to sign up for one of these seminars and stick to the one you have chosen as faithfully as possible. The seminar sessions will cover the lecture topic usually one week after the lecture slot, so that you have time to revise and work on the practice material provided on Moodle. Each semester ends with opportunities to revise and ask questions. Prior to the final exam at the end of the summer term, we also hold a mock exam where you can test yourselves and become acquainted with the exam situation.

Materials and platforms

The central hub for our class is our Moodle page: Introducing English Linguistics, URL: https://moodle.uni-greifswald.de/course/view.php?id=7397 You need to log in to the Moodle system with your university account (https://moodle.uni-greifswald.de/), and then type in the class password ("Einschreibeschlüssel") to sign up; you will find the class password in our welcome email.

On this Moodle page, you will find:

- Basic info such as this syllabus, the schedule, and any announcements;

- Weekly uploads of lecture videos (with spoken commentary) and slides as PDFs for download;

- A link to our videoconferencing system where you can log on to weekly online seminar sessions;

- Online exercises for hands-on practice of the topics covered in the lecture;

- At the end of the module: an online mock exam;

- Additional readings, links, and materials.

Our module is built on the following coursebook:

Mair, Christian. 2012. *English Linguistics: An Introduction*. Tübingen: Narr. (This is the second edition of the book; the more recent third edition, from 2015, is almost identical).

This book constitutes the backdrop for the units in our module, and we will follow the structure of the book relatively closely. In the session schedule, the weekly chapters that go with the session topics are indicated. It is a very accessible introduction to English linguistics. I highly recommend that you invest in a copy; the paperback price is below 20 EUR. Our university library also holds a limited number of digital copies of the book.

If you are looking for additional reading that deepens and extends the Mair coursebook, many additional linguistic intro books are on the market. The following is particularly recommended, e.g. for exam preparation:

Kortmann, Bernd. 2005/2020. *English Linguistics: Essentials.* Cornelsen. → a completely revised version will be published by the end of 2020.

The module will also be accompanied by a reader which summarizes the key points from every session. This reader is currently being revised; it should be available by the end of the semester.

Studienleistung **and** ***Prüfungsleistung***

<u>For students enrolled 2020 and onwards:</u>

To complete the module successfully, you need to fulfil *Studienleistungen* – requirements during the class – in order to be admitted to the final exam, the *Prüfungsleistung*. The weekly online exercises which you will find online on Moodle constitute the *Studienleistung* for our module. For each semester, you will need to have completed six online exercises in order to fulfil the *Studienleistung*, so twelve in total. (Of course, we highly recommend that you do the online exercises on a weekly basis).

At the end of the summer term, the module concludes with the final exam. The exam has a length of 120 minutes. The modality of the exam depends on the progression of the Covid pandemic in 2021. We are currently planning with an online, open-book exam. The exam will cover the entirety of the module, including both the "structure" and the "use" part, and consist of an array of different question types.

<u>For students enrolled in the 2012 study programs:</u>

If you are completing the old "Linguistics 1" modules, you do not need to complete any *Studienleistungen* to be admitted to the final exam. Of course, we recommend completing the online exercises regardless.

The Linguistics 1 module corresponds most closely to the first part of the lecture, i.e. the topics covered in the winter term. Therefore, a Linguistics 1 exam, open only for students enrolled in the 2012 study programs, will be offered at the end of the winter term. If you decide that you want to complete the entire new module, the new "Introducing Linguistics" exam at the end of the summer term will also be open for enrollment for you.

All final exams in the module have a 60% pass threshold. Based on previous experience, we currently use the following grading scheme:

%				grade	
94	-	100	=	1.0	
90	-	93	=	1.3	
88	-	89	=	1.7	
84	-	87	=	2.0	
80	-	83	=	2.3	
78	-	79	=	2.7	
74	-	77	=	3.0	
70	-	73	=	3.3	
68	-	69	=	3.7	
60	-	67	=	4.0	
00	-	59	=	5.0	(= fail)

Contact and questions

For all questions related to contents of the lecture, please use the seminar session that you are enrolled in.

In addition, feel free to contact Theresa Heyd: theresa.heyd@uni-greifswald.de

You can find our office hours for getting in touch on the departmental website.

Tentative schedule

This is the schedule as it is planned for the winter term and tentatively projected for the summer term. Smaller changes may occur.

Part 1, winter term: the linguistic system and structures of English

Session	Date Lecture	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic	Readings
1	October 12	Welcome session	Welcome	
2	October 19	Intro: language as a system, language as a social practice	Helpful resources	Mair, chapter 1
3	October 26	Semiotics	Intro	Mair, chapter 1
4	November 2	Sounds 1: Phonetics	Semiotics	Mair, chapter 2
5	November 9	Sounds 2: Phonology	Phonetics	Mair, chapter 2
6	November 16	Morphology 1	Phonology	Mair, chapter 3
7	November 23	Morphology 2	Morphology 1	Mair, chapter 3
8	November 30	Syntax 1	Morphology 2	Mair, chapter 4
9	December 7	Syntax 2	Syntax 1	Mair, chapter 5
10	December 14	Semantics 1	Syntax 2	Mair, chapter 6
11	January 4	Semantics 2	Semantics 1	Mair, chapter 6
12	January 11	Pragmatics 1	Semantics 2	Mair, chapter 7
13	January 18	Pragmatics 2	Pragmatics 1	Mair, chapter 7
14	January 25	Looking back and looking ahead	Pragmatics 2	

Part 2, summer term: English in use: social practice and global context

Session	Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic	Readings
15		Welcome session	Welcome	
16		Intro: language as a system, language as a social practice		
17		Discourse and text linguistics	language as a system, language as a social practice	Mair chapter 7
18		Spoken, written, digital, signed language	Discourse and text linguistics	
19		Applied linguistics: ELT, translation, and beyond	Spoken, written, digital, signed language	Mair chapter 8
20		Historical linguistics 1: periodization of English	Applied linguistics: ELT, translation, and beyond	Mair chapter 12
21		Historical linguistics 2: language change past and present	Historical linguistics 1: periodization of English	Mair chapter 12
22		A pluricentric language: Global English	Historical linguistics 2: language change past and present	Mair chapter 9
23		Sociolinguistics 1: variation	A pluricentric language: Global English	Mair chapter 10
24		Sociolinguistics 2: styles, power and social practice	Sociolinguistics 1: variation	Mair chapter 11
25		Language politics	Sociolinguistics 2: styles, power and social practice	
26		tbd	Language politics	
27		Mock exam	tbd	
28		Looking back and looking ahead	Mock exam	