



Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ALSM21, General Linguistics: Language and the Brain, 7.5 credits

Allmän språkvetenskap: Språket och hjärnan, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-02-25 and was valid from 2013-02-25, autumn semester 2013.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective component of the MA programme in Language and Linguistics (HASPV). It is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included as part of a first- or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course is normally taught in English, but if both the students and the lecturer agree, it may be taught in Swedish. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics

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Linguistics - specialization in General Linguistics

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to identify the parts of the brain associated with various types of speech and language, i.e. speaking, listening, writing and reading
- be able to give an account of the reasons why the hemispheres of the brain work asymmetrically with regard to language
- be able to give an account of the neurophysiological correlatives of various linguistic components such as phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics/pragmatics and syntax
- be able to describe various types of language-related difficulties which arise from brain injuries
- be able to give an account of various types of dementia and aphasia and their neurophysiological correlatives

Competence and skills

- be able to discuss and take a position on the ethical perspectives on different experimental methods in an informed manner
- be able to carry out a neurolinguistic experiment on the processing of word meanings or syntax patterns, for example
- be able to present results obtained from a neurolinguistic experiment in both oral and written form
- be able to judge to what extent a model for a certain type of language structure can be related to established neurophysiological processing mechanisms.

Judgement and approach

- be able to discuss and take a position on the ethical perspectives on different experimental methods in an informed manner.

Course content

The course deals with the connections between the structure of the central nervous system and linguistic and communicative functions in relation to other cognitive functions such as sight. Basic concepts in neuroanatomy are discussed and the neuro-psychological correlatives of various linguistic components such as phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics/pragmatics and syntax are examined. Models of neurocognitive representations and the processing of speech and writing are introduced, as are the experimental methods which are used to examine these various types of linguistic representations and processing. Areas covered include the evolution of language, the asymmetrical function of the hemispheres of the brain, and the consequences of brain injury such as aphasia and dementia on the neurophysiological processing of language.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and 2-3 compulsory exercises.

Assessment

The assessment is based on 2-3 exercises and a final written exam.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have 90 credits, of which 60 credits must be in a language subject or Linguistics (General Linguistics or Phonetics) or the equivalent, and English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
2. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University

Subcourses in ALSM21, General Linguistics: Language and the Brain

Applies from V08

0801 General Linguistics: Language and the Brain, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction