



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

SASH26, Diversity of the World's Languages, 7.5 credits

Diversity of the World's Languages, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2008-02-12 to be valid from 2008-02-12, autumn semester 2008.

General Information

Subject: General Linguistics The course is offered as a single course. It can normally be included as part of a general degree at the undergraduate or graduate levels. With the approval of the relevant authenticating body, it can also be included in certain professional degrees.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Linguistics with specialization in
Phonetics

Linguistics with specialization in General
Linguistics

*Depth of study relative to the degree
requirements*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary
level entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to describe the major languages of the world, where they are located and their typical characteristics
- be able to explain what "language relatedness" means, and how one can recognise it
- be able to explain and apply basic concepts of language typology

Competence and skills

- be able to make grammatical generalisations on the basis of a limited number of language examples
- be able to place a language in the world (geographically or geneologically) on the basis of grammatical and sociolinguistic information
- be able to distinguish between possible/probable languages and impossible/improbable languages
- be able to account for the typological status of his/her own native language among the languages of the world
- be able to carry out a questionnaire-based interview

Judgement and approach

- be able to evaluate reasons as to why the world's great number of languages is decreasing through language death.

Course content

The course provides the students with an overview of the major languages in the world, the families to which they belong, their structural characteristics and where they are spoken. Different accounts as to why languages resemble or differ from each other regarding grammar and sound systems are taken up and discussed.

Explanations as to why the number of languages in the world is fast decreasing through language death are further examined.

Emphasis is placed on practical exercises as well as an investigation where the student (either individually or in a group) conducts a questionnaire-based interview with a speaker of a language of which he/she has no previous knowledge.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and practical exercises. Exercises are obligatory.

Assessment

Examination takes the form of a take-home examination and an individual/group assignment involving the brief description of a language of the student's own choice using a questionnaire-based interview method.

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

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

1. The points 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. Priority is given to exchange students. Students are required to have good knowledge of written and spoken English.

Subcourses in SASH26, Diversity of the World's Languages

Applies from V08

0801 Diversity of the World's Languages, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction