



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **ALSM04, General Linguistics: The Origins of Language, 7.5 credits**

*Allmän språkvetenskap: Språkets uppkomst, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

---

### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2009-04-28 to be valid from 2009-04-28, autumn semester 2009.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a free-standing course and can normally be included as part of a general first- or second-cycle degree. With the approval of the relevant authenticating body, it can also be included in certain professional degrees.

*Language of instruction:* English

The course is normally taught in English. It can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the teacher and the students. 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

Linguistics with specialization in General Linguistics

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- be able to account for the current research on the origins of language
- be able to account for different types of communication between animals and describe similarities and differences between animal and human language

- be able to describe certain physiological and neural conditions for language from the perspective of evolution
- be able to describe similarities and differences between biological and cultural evolution and the possibilities for interaction between them
- be able to explain aspects of the complex relationship between mind and language at an advanced level.

### **Competence and skills**

- be able to compare different hypotheses on the origins of language on the basis of empirical evidence.

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to critically assess different hypotheses on the origins of language.

### **Course content**

The course deals with current interdisciplinary research on the origins of language. Focus is placed on the relationship between biological and cultural evolution and physiological and neural conditions for language from the perspective of evolution. Furthermore, the course addresses animal communication, experiments on language acquisition in primates and other animals, the relationship between mind and language and different hypotheses on the origins of language and evaluation of these on the basis of empirical evidence.

### **Course design**

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on an oral report on selections of the required reading and a written assignment which addresses a theme of the course at an advanced level.

*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 passed the course LINB02 or 60 credits in a language subject 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.

## Subcourses in ALSM04, General Linguistics: The Origins of Language

Applies from H10

0901 Språkets uppkomst, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction