



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ENGC11, English: Linguistic Variation and Change , 7.5 credits

Engelska: Språklig variation och förändring, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-06-10 (U 2024/428). The syllabus comes into effect 2024-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included as part of a first or second cycle degree. The course is particularly suitable for future English teachers and in-service English teachers in upper-secondary school.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

English G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students are to be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- at a basic level, provide an overview of the range of variation and current developments in the English language
- communicate an understanding of different types of linguistic variation, including social and functional features of variant forms

Competence and skills

- discuss and apply different theoretical models of language variation and change
- work with linguistic data to analyse cases of variation and the factors that account for them

Judgement and approach

- critically examine theories regarding language use, their foci, implications, and 'blind spots'
- reflect on one's own language use in different situations and one's own perceptions and attitudes towards variant forms

Course content

One cannot make the same utterance twice; it will not be the exact same utterance. Variation is always present in language use. It occurs on all levels of linguistic organization (phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics). Much of this variation is not accidental, but contains information about the speaker (or writer) and what they want to convey. Moreover, linguistic variation is the source of language change. In this course we will survey the range of variation found in the English language. This includes social and regional variation (accents, dialects, and sociolects), as well as articulatory variation (e.g. phonetic reduction) and pragmatic variation. We will also study how changes in the English language are connected to variation and review linguistic research approaches to variation and change.

Course design

The course is based on active participation, discussion, and reflection. The teaching consists of seven scheduled sessions comprising, among other things, lecture components and group discussions.

Assessment

The course is examined through an oral presentation and a written exam.

If the student does not complete the course with a Pass grade, an opportunity to re-sit the examination in accordance with the regulatory framework of the faculty is given. The examiner may deviate from the regular form of examination if it cannot be implemented during a retake. Information about retakes should be available at the beginning of the course.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

Participants are awarded a maximum of 60 points, divided between the two assessment tasks. The presentation in class gives a maximum of 15 points; the written exam a maximum of 45 points. For the grade of Pass, at least 40 of the maximum of 60 points are required, and to pass with distinction at least 51 points are required.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires at least 30 credits (högskolepoäng) in completed first-cycle courses in the subject English.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- 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 current registration and information materials