



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **LINN17, Linguistics: Communication in Humans and Other Animals, 7.5 credits**

*Lingvistik: Kommunikation hos människor och andra djur, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-09-28 to be valid from 2011-09-28, spring semester 2012.

### **General Information**

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

*Language of instruction:* English  
English

*Main field of studies*

Language and 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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- be able to account for the fundamental principles of the reasons for and means of communication in different species
- be able to describe communication from different perspectives
- be able to describe the ontogenic development of the capacity for communication in individuals of different species.

### **Competence and skills**

- be able to formulate a research question and discuss suitable methods to investigate it
- be able to compare how linguists and biologists view communication.

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to discuss and critically assess theories, methods and results in research articles on communication.

### **Course content**

The course provides a broad introduction to the communication of humans and animals, from the perspectives of both linguistics and biology. The methodological problem of comparing different species is discussed, as are fundamental principles such as communication networks, alignment, accommodation and social learning. The development of communication in young individuals and the role played by the home environment and early interaction with adults is specially emphasised. The second half of the course provides a detailed presentation of communication in selected species. Study of empirical sources, in which students train their ability to critically review methods and interpretations of research results, is an important component of the course.

### **Course design**

Teaching consists of lectures and exercises.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on five assignments during the course and a major written assignment at the end of the course.

*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 successfully completed 90 credits, including 60 credits in a language subject or the course Linguistics: The Structure and Function of Language (LINB02) 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 LINN17, Linguistics: Communication in Humans and Other Animals

Applies from H11

1101 Linguistics: Communication in Humans and Other Animals, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction