



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINN24, Linguistics: Semantics - Problems and Methods in the Study of Meaning, 7.5 credits

*Lingvistik: Semantik - problem och metoder i studiet av betydelse,
7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-08-25 to be valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

The course is included in the Master of Arts programme Language and Linguistics (HASPV). It is offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Language and 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 students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for key semantic issues such as the relationship between linguistic meaning and pre-lingual concepts, the differences between lexical and grammatical meaning and between polysemy and generality
- relate relevant empirical data to the issue at hand
- account for some key methods within semantic research

Competence and skills

- discuss in speech and writing key semantic issues and relate them to empirical data
- formulate and carry out an independent semantic study
- argue in support of how the results of the independent study highlight the chosen semantic issue

Judgement and approach

- critically judge argumentation and the use of empirical data in relation to semantic issues

Course content

This is an advanced course in semantics assuming prior knowledge of basic semantic theories and concepts. Informed by a cognitive and functional perspective on significance and meaning, the course focuses on several key issues, such as the relationship between linguistic meanings and concepts, similarities and differences between lexical and grammatical meaning, the difference between polysemy and generality, and semantic typology. Different methods for semantic analysis are introduced and used: intuition-based analysis, corpus analysis and cross-lingual studies. Students are to formulate and complete a short independent study linking an issue to a method.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and 3 to 5 compulsory seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on active participation in the compulsory seminars, an independent study and a final written assignment.

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.

The grades awarded are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits, of which at least 60 credits must be in a language or linguistics (general linguistics or phonetics), and English B, or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. 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.

Subcourses in LINN24, Linguistics: Semantics - Problems and Methods in the Study of Meaning

Applies from H14

1401 Semantics - Problems and Methods in the Study of Meaning, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction