



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINN25, Linguistics: The Origins of Language, 7.5 credits

Lingvistik: 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 2017-09-29 to be valid from 2017-09-29, autumn semester 2017.

General Information

The course is included in the Master of Arts (120 credits) programme in Language and Linguistics (HASPV). It is also offered as a freestanding course and can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

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 requires that all lecturers and all students are proficient in Swedish.

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 current research about the origins of language
- account for different types of animal communication and describe differences and similarities between these and human language
- describe certain anatomical and neural conditions for language from the point of view of evolution
- describe differences and similarities between biological and cultural evolution and their possible interaction
- provide a specialised explanation of aspects of the complex relation between language and consciousness

Competence and skills

- compare different hypotheses about the origins of language based on empirical evidence

Judgement and approach

- critically assess different hypotheses about the origins of language

Course content

The course deals with current interdisciplinary research on the origins of language. It focuses on topics concerning the relationship between biological and cultural evolution, and the anatomical and neural conditions for language from an evolutionary point of view. The course also includes components on animal communication, experiments on language learning of apes and other animals, the relationship between language and consciousness, and different hypotheses about the origins of language, and the evaluation of these on the basis of the existing evidence.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on an oral presentation of a part of the required reading and on a paper dealing in a qualified way with one of the topics covered by 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.

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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 90 credits, of which at least 60 must be from studies of a language or linguistics (general linguistics or phonetics) and English 6/English B from upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. It replaces ALSM04.
3. 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 LINN25, Linguistics: The Origins of Language

Applies from H17

1701 The Origins of Language, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction