



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINN30, Linguistics: The Archaeology of Language, 7.5 credits

Lingvistik: Språkets arkeologi, 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 2021-03-05 to be valid from 2021-03-05, autumn semester 2021.

General Information

The course is included as an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Language and Linguistics. It is also 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 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 students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for basic theories and models for reconstructing language in prehistory
- account for basic principles of the evolution of and changes to language over time
- account for the principles for the emergence of linguistic diversity
- account for how languages change through language contact and sociocultural factors

Competence and skills

- apply the basics of philology and the comparative method for language reconstruction
- apply the basics of computational historical linguistics for language reconstruction
- apply the basics of computational research on linguistic and cultural evolution for language reconstruction

Judgement and approach

- compare and evaluate different theories and models for reconstructing language
- broadly discuss how the evolution and history of language are relevant to language today
- address how the evolution and history of language are relevant to contemporary linguistic diversity.

Course content

The course covers methods to reconstruct the prehistory of language. The course focuses on the development of the human capacity for producing and perceiving language and examines the roots and evolution of linguistic diversity, the migration and expansion of languages in the past, as well as the cognitive and sociocultural aspects of language change in the prehistoric period. The course features an array of theoretical, empirical and methodological aspects on the reconstruction of prehistoric language and language change, both qualitative and quantitative in nature, including philology, the comparative method, linguistic anthropology, computational modelling, phylogenetics and modelling of linguistic and cultural evolution. In addition, the course includes discussions on the theoretical framework for reconstructing language beyond the historical period.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and 2-3 compulsory laboratory sessions and exercises with accompanying reports.

Assessment

Assessment is based on 2-3 continuous presentation assignments in connection with laboratory sessions/exercises and a major analysis assignment resulting in a written assignment and an oral presentation at the end 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.

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.
Reports are awarded the grades of Fail and Pass.

The analysis assignment is awarded the grades of Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction.

To be awarded the grade of Pass on the whole course, all reports and the analysis assignment need to be awarded a Pass.

To be awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, all reports must be submitted within the predetermined time frame and be awarded a Pass as well as a Pass with Distinction on the analysis assignment.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits of which 7.5 credits must be in LINC12 Grammar - The Mechanics of Language, or the equivalent, and at least 52.5 credits must be in a language subject or linguistics (general linguistics or phonetics) as well as English 6/English B.

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. For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in LINN30, Linguistics: The Archaeology of Language

Applies from H21

2101 Linguistics: The Archaeology of Language, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction