



Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## SVEM36, Language and Linguistics: Theories of Language Change, 7.5 credits

*Språk och språkvetenskap: Språkförändringsteorier, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-01-28 to be valid from 2013-01-28, autumn semester 2013.

### General Information

The course is included as an elective course in the Master's programme in Language and Linguistics and also offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the lecturer and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of 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 recent theories of language change at all levels of linguistic description
- formulate relevant research questions in the field based on the required reading

### **Competence and skills**

- complete a minor but independently formulated research assignment in the field of language change applying a justified choice of method and/or theory
- provide reliable evidence of language change from digitalised or printed historical texts
- in speech and writing discuss the possible implications of a certain model of theoretical explanation for studies of concrete cases of historical language change

### **Judgement and approach**

- compare and critically judge different theories of language change with regard to compatibility and explanatory value
- discuss, judge and assess research of language change from empirical and theoretical perspectives

### **Course content**

The course is introduced by an overview of the semantically and syntactically oriented research on diachronic language change, the theoretical development of the field in recent decades and the phenomenon of grammaticalisation from different perspectives. The focus of the course is on the similarities and differences between the semantic and syntactic aspects of diachronic language change, taking into account the relevant research on language change from semantic/pragmatic as well as morphosyntactic perspectives. Different methods of investigating processes of language change are presented and applied to both printed and digitalised texts. The course includes components of specialised study, in which the central theoretical perspectives are discussed and evaluated.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars, including one compulsory seminar.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on one written assignment and an assessed seminar.

*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 including at least 60 credits in linguistics or a language or the equivalent. Furthermore, students must have English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

## Further information

1. The course replaces SVEM27.
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.
3. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.

## Subcourses in SVEM36, Language and Linguistics: Theories of Language Change

Applies from V13

1301 Theories of Language Change, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction