



GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY
Department of Linguistics

Course syllabus

AP2406, General Linguistics, Linguistic Theory – syntax and semantics, netbased, 7,5 higher education credits

Allmän språkvetenskap/ Språkteori – syntax and semantik, nätkurs, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Advanced level

1. Establishment of syllabus

The course syllabus was established by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 2006-11-06 to be valid from autumn 2007.

Educational area Humanities

2. Position in the educational system

The course is given on advanced level and can be included in a magister-degree.
Half semester half time.

3. Entrance requirements

The prerequisite for applying for the course is a degree within the Swedish educational system (180 credit points/three years full time study) or similar competence from another educational system. And following courses on advanced level; Introduction to sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, Structure and function of language, Phonetics, phonology and graphonomy, Semantics, or similar.

4. Learning outcomes

When the course is completed the student should

- possess understanding of important current theories of grammar and semantics
- have knowledge about the difference between generative and non-generative theories of grammar
- have knowledge about the difference between representational and derivational generative theories
- have knowledge about the ability of different grammar theories to analyze spoken language data
- have the ability to formulate a unification-based representational grammar for a linguistic fragment and a simulated transformational grammar for the same fragment
- possess insights in differences between representational and denotational semantic theories
- possess insights about the difference between formal semantics, decompositional semantics and cognitive semantics
- possess insights about advantages and weaknesses in different semantic theories in analyzing different semantic phenomena
- be able to perform semantic analyses of linguistic expressions



- possess insights about the interrelation syntax, semantics and pragmatics
- be able to formulate a research question for the area, which is carried out within the theoretical framework with a high degree of independence and in a critical evaluating way
- within a given period time write a scientific coursepaper
- have advanced ability to discuss theoretical questions of the area with current terminology

5. Course content

Aim: to provide insights in syntactic and semantic theories.

Content: universal grammar, X-bar-theory, thematic roles, transformations, minimalism, lexical-functional grammar (LFG), Head-driven phrase structure grammar (HPSG), syntax and spoken language, functional grammar, cognitive grammar, construction grammar, grammar theory in first and second language acquisition, specific language impairment and aphasia.

Semiotics, lexical semantics, reference, semantic change, tense and aspect, semantic roles, decompositional semantics, formal semantics, and cognitive semantics.

6. Literature

Course literature is presented in a separate list.

7. Examination

Course paper, lab reports and written course assignments.

8. Forms of assessment

The examination of the coursework conforms to the Swedish educational standard, which ranks the work of the student against a three level scale, High Pass, Pass or Fail.

A student who has failed an examination will be given a second examination chance. A student who has passed a test is not allowed a second chance in order to achieve a higher grade. A student who twice fails in an examination for a course or part of a course has the right to request that another teacher be appointed for the examination.

9. Evaluation

The teacher responsible for the course guarantees that the students' views about the course will be considered regularly and systematically, and that the results of these evaluations will be the basis for the design of the course.

10. Further directions

The course can not be included in an exam together with AV1100 Allmän språkvetenskap grundkurs 20p, AV0200 Allmän språkvetenskap Fortsättningskurs, Språkteori 1a Syntax, Språkteori 1b Semantik (nya koder skall läggas till under denna rubrik)