lfial1131

2024

Understanding language: an introduction to linguistics

5.00 credits	30.0 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Degand Elisabeth ;Hambye Philippe ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The aim of this course is to familiarise students with the scientific approach to language and to highlight the types of question that can be answered by this approach, through an understanding of how human language works (its particularities, constraints, etc.). In particular, the course will address the following themes: • The specificity of human language compared to other communication systems; • The different levels of linguistic analysis (phonetics and phonology, morphology and lexicon, syntax); • The origins of language and language diversity. • The characteristics of a scientific approach to languages • The rationale and specific features of different linguistic theories...
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Distinguish between a scientific approach to language and a normative or prescriptive approach; 2 Identify the types of questions and problems to which language sciences provide answers; 3 Define and understand the specific features of language in relation to other forms of communication; 4 Master the precise and formal metalanguage that linguists use to describe language and explain how it works internally (units, structures) and externally (in relation to the historical, geographical, social, etc. roots of natural languages), and apply it to different languages in order to grasp their particular features; 5 Analyse and interpret simple linguistic problems at the different levels of organisation studied; 6 Explain why competing theories view identical phenomena differently and how they differ from one another. This learning unit contributes to the development and command of the following skills and learning outcomes of the ELAL programmes) : 1.4, 1.6, 2.6
Evaluation methods	Formative evaluation during the quadrimester (mock test). Written exam during the January, June and September session (multiple choice questions). Scores below 50% will not be rounded up to the next unit for the final score (e.g. a score of 19.5/40 will not be rounded up to 10/20).
Teaching methods	Lectures (face-to-face) and questions / answers sessions (using Wooclap). Individual training by students using the website "Parole&Langue": https://sites.uclouvain.be/paroleetlangue/web/ Tutoring: 4 tutoring sessions (participation optional, only upon registration) to prepare for the exam.
Content	The course will successively address the following topics: - A scientific approach to language - The different forms of language (natural languages and other communication systems) - From the faculty of language to the diversity of languages - From "sounds" to phonological units - From "words" to morphological and lexical units - From "words" to sentences and statements: syntax - Lexical semantics - Pragmatics, or how we interpret language in use

Inline resources	The various course materials (course slideshows, exercises, etc.) are available on the course website on the Moodle platform.
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Ancient Languages and Literatures : Classics	CLAS1BA	5		🔍
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5		🔍
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	5		🔍
Bachelor in Ancient Languages and Literatures: Oriental Studies	HORI1BA	5		🔍
Minor in Linguistics (only available for reenrolment)	MINLING	5		🔍
Bachelor in Psychology and Education : Speech and Language Therapy	LOGO1BA	4		🔍
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	5		🔍
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		🔍
Minor in Linguistics	MINLINGUI	5		🔍