



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Languages

4EN016 Syntax - beskrivning och teori, 15 högskolepoäng
Syntax - Description and Theory, 15 credits

Main field of study

English

Subject Group

English

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2019-11-04

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level including English (or another language/linguistics) 1–90 credits including an independent project of 15 credits.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the underlying arguments for the construction of some English grammars,
- account for various models in modern syntactic research, and the underlying arguments for their construction,
- account for basic similarities and differences between the models,
- account for problems solved and problems caused by the models.

Competence and skills

- conduct an academic study relating to one or several of the models discussed in the course,
- practically apply the models in analyses and problem-solving using unfamiliar linguistic data, or to shed new light on familiar data.

Content

This course discusses central parts of grammar from descriptive and theoretical perspectives. The descriptive part compares how three standard grammars cover

central grammatical concepts, e.g. verb phrases and clauses. The theoretical part includes more in-depth studies of the construction of linguistic theories, and how the theoretical framework influences analyses of individual languages. This is done through in-depth studies of a few relevant linguistic theories. The models are also related to the descriptive grammars discussed in the course.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, group exercises and individual and/or group supervision. Some parts of the teaching include ICT. For specific technical requirements, see the course website.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified when the course starts.

The course is examined through:

- written assignments and oral presentations: 5 credits (grades U–G),
- independent project in the form of an essay: 10 credits (grades U–VG).

In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must have received the grade of Pass with Distinction on the independent project: essay (10 credits).

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

For students who do not pass their first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examinations at the first and second levels at Linnaeus University.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman grammar of spoken and written English*. Harlow: Longman (in selection, ca 400 p.)

Börjars, K., Nordlinger, R. & Sadler, L. (2019). *Lexical-Functional Grammar: An introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (214 pages).

Huddleston, Rodney D. & Pullum, Geoffrey K. (2002). *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press (in selection, ca 400 p.)

Müller, S. (2019). Müller, Stefan (2018). *Grammatical theory: From transformational grammar to constraint-based approaches*. Third revised edition. Berlin: Language Science Press (in selection, ca 400 p.)

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G. & Svartvik, J. (1972). *A grammar of contemporary English*. London: Longman (in selection, ca 400 p.)

van Valin R. D. (2005). *Exploring the syntax-semantics interface*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (310 p.)

Additional literature depending on the student's individual project, ca 300 p.

