



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Language and Literature

4EN705 Språklig förändring och variation, 15 högskolepoäng
Language change and variation, 15 credits

Subject Group

English

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Board of the School of Language and Literature 2011-12-08

Revised 2012-09-06. Revision due to English translation of the syllabus

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2012

Prerequisites

English 1–90 credits

Objectives

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

- explain and discuss the relationship between language and gender, age, class and ethnicity, as well as language and power,
- in an idiomatically correct manner and with good a good artistic sense and sense of genre, write scientific texts,
- explain and discuss historical processes of change such as grammaticalization, pragmaticalization and lexicalization,
- identify patterns in linguistic data and formulate generalizations on the data that demonstrate variation and change,
- discuss and evaluate the concepts of standard language and geographic social varieties,
- independently identify and formulate questions that deal with linguistic changes and variation,
- conduct simple but independently formulated research tasks that deal with linguistic changes and variation,
- independently evaluate and discuss academic texts that deal with linguistic changes and variation as well as reflect on the theory, methods and materials in the texts.

Content

The course deals with linguistic changes in both written and oral language. Syntactical, semantic, morphological, phonetic, phonological and pragmatic changes and variation are discussed in relation to different theoretical positions. During the course, students will study and test different theories and methods by conducting minor investigations.

Type of Instruction

Teaching and instruction methods include lectures, seminars, group exercises and individual or group tutoring. Teaching includes ICT-based methods. For specific technical requirements for each course date, see the course homepage.

Attendance is mandatory at the meetings marked as *seminars* on the course schedule.

Examination

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

Student grades for the course are Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the expected learning outcomes must be achieved.

Examination and grading is based on written and oral assignments throughout the course.

Course Evaluation

Teaching is evaluated throughout the course. A written course evaluation is carried out at the end of the course. The evaluation is compiled, reviewed with the students and archived according to departmental protocol.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Hickey, Raymond (ed.). 2003. *Motives for language change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 286 s. (finns som e-bok)

Hopper, Paul J. & Elizabeth Closs Traugott. 2003. *Grammaticalization*. (2:a upplagan). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 276 s.

Tagliamonte, Sali. 2011. *Variationist Sociolinguistics: Change, Observation, Interpretation*. London: Wiley-Blackwell. 424 s.

Traugott, Elisabeth Closs & Robert B. Dasher. 2002. *The Regularity of Semantic Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. S. 1–102. (finns som e-bok)

Material som väljs i samråd med undervisande lärare, ca 1000 s.

Aitchison, Jean. 2001. *Language change: Progress or decay?* (3rd edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Crystal, David. 2010. *The Cambridge encyclopedia of language*. (3rd edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lindquist, Hans. 2009. *Corpus linguistics and the description of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.