

Institut für Linguistik
Master Linguistics
Summer semester 2024

Stand: 21.3.2024

Please also check the information on our [Homepage](#).

MODULEINSCHREIBUNG – Module enrolment

You must register for all modules and courses that you would like to take. To register for modules or courses, you will have to do so **via TOOL**

between March 20th, 2024 (12:00) and March 25th, 2024 (17:00).

Further information can be found here: <https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/studying/current-students/module-registration/>

Freshman orientation

Information on study regulations and module enrolment

Fabian Heck

Monday, 25 march 2024 15:15–16:00 o'clock
Room H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

Module recommendations for first semester students

We recommend the two advanced modules *Suprasegmental Phonology* (04-046-2014), and *Computational Perspectives on Grammar* (04-046-2025), and the foundational module *Empirical Methods* (04-046-2033). Alternatively you could also enrol for the advanced module *Language in Focus* (04-046-2035).

If you are interested in taking the special module *Research internship* (04-046-2034), you should do so in a higher semester.

MODULE 04-046-2014

SUPRASEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY

Advanced Module

Phonology Reading Group

Jochen Trommer

Monday 11:15-12:45 Beethovenstr. 15, Room H1 5.16

We meet every week to discuss recent and/or important work in phonology. Most of the time we agree on a paper that we all read and then discuss, but we also include talks/discussions about our own work in progress.

The non-accentual nature of prosodic feet

Eva Zimmermann

Thursday 9:15-10:45 NSG, S 125

Feet as a constituent of the prosodic hierarchy are one standard representation for stress and explain, for example, the rhythmic and/or weight-sensitive nature of stress in many languages (e.g. Liberman & Prince 1970, Selkirk 1980, Hayes 1980). In this course, we will focus on a different aspect of feet, namely the non-accentual evidence for feet as a prosodic unit. We will look at different phonological patterns (e.g. segmental restrictions on weak foot positions) and morphological phenomena (e.g. template effects, affix placement) in a variety of languages that seemingly require reference to the foot and discuss 1) how alternative theories without feet and 2) how different theories of feet (e.g. with or without foot recursion or gradient activity) fare in light of this evidence.

Locality Domains of Tonal Processes

Jochen Trommer

Thursday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 125

Tone is the ideal phonological category to study the effect of locality domains for two reasons. First, tone per se is the least local phonological feature, which means that observed locality effects must be the consequence of specific domains, not of phonetic or functional limitations. Second, in many languages similar tonal processes apply in a

variety of domains (especially: word-internal and phrasally) allowing for a comparison between different domains. The focus of this course are locality restrictions imposed by prosodic domains (e.g. feet, prosodic words, prosodic phrases), stratal-cyclic domains (e.g., stems) on processes such as tone spreading, dissimilation and insertion. We will discuss competing theoretical approaches, but also the typological distribution of processes and domains.

Literature: - Breteler, J. (2017) Deriving bounded tone with layered feet in harmonic serialism: The case of Saghal. *Glossa*, 2(1).
 - Hyman Larry & Hildah Nyamwaro (2022) Grammatical tone mapping in Ekegusii. *Phonology*. 39(3):503-529.
 - Myers, Scott (1987) Tone and the structure of words in Shona. PhD thesis, UMass Amherst.
 - Sande, H., Jenks, P., and Inkelas, S. (2020) Cophonologies by ph(r)ase. *NLLT*, 38(4):1211 –1261.

MODULE 04-046-2025

COMPUTATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON GRAMMAR

Advanced Module

Optimization and Derivation

Michael Frazier

Monday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 301

This seminar focuses on reading and discussing original research literature addressing the role of optimization processes in derivational syntax. Topics addressed may include: OT approaches to syntax, global vs. local optimization, transderivational comparison, the relevance of syntactic optimization to the derivation/representation tradeoff, and optimization and gradience, among others.

Learnability

Gregory M. Kobele

Tuesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 215

The question of how languages are learned is at the heart of the generative enterprise. Whether called "Plato's Problem" or "Explanatory Adequacy", learnability is a fundamental goal of linguistic theory. In this course we approach learning from a computational perspective, exploring the literature on inductive inference of formal languages.

Colloquium on Computation

Gregory M. Kobele

Wednesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 111

In this colloquium we will meet and discuss topics of interest, to be determined in the first meeting.

MODULE 04-046-2033

EMPIRICAL METHODS

Foundational Module

Linguistic fieldwork

Barbara Stiebels

Tuesday 9:15-10:45 NSG, S 121

This class provides a hands-on approach to linguistic fieldwork. The goal of the course is to teach students how to collect, evaluate and organize real, non-idealized linguistic data and to formulate generalizations.

Students will interview a native speaker of a (non-Indo-European) language to study all aspects of the language's grammar: phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

References:- Bower, Claire. 2008. *Linguistic Fieldwork: A practical guide*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Chelliah, Shobhana L. & Willem J. de Reuse. 2011. *Handbook of descriptive linguistic fieldwork*. Dordrecht: Springer..

- Crowley, Terry. 2007. *Field linguistics: A beginner's guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Sakel, Jeanette & Daniel L. Everett. 2012. *Linguistic fieldwork. A student guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

R for Linguists

Michael Frazier

Wednesday 9:15-10:45 NSG, S 229

In this course we will learn how to use the R computing environment to store, manipulate, and analyze the kinds of data linguists encounter in our work.

Treebanks and Linguistic Theory

Gregory Kobele

Thursday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 215

A successful syntactic analysis of a language will provide structural descriptions for each of its sentences. Treebanks implicitly represent a syntactic theory, as they contain structural descriptions for each sentence in a corpus. Typically, a good treebank is the result of a massive investment in time and money. However, a treebank will typically not

assign the structures that any given linguist believes are right. How can we make productive use of wrong resources?! This course looks at some popular treebanks (in particular the Penn Treebank and Universal Dependencies treebanks) and introduces their annotation schemes, and tools for interacting with them. In addition, we discuss attempts to use existing treebanks to create treebanks for different linguistic theories.

MODULE 04-046-2034**RESEARCH INTERNSHIP**Special Module

The internship should involve some practical research activity in a linguistic research project (at the Institute of Linguistics or in some external linguistic project, e.g. at one of the Max-Planck institutes in Leipzig). Students learn to understand and apply linguistic research methods. Please clear up the details of the internship with Michael Frazier. Since the internship is possible at any time, you should enrol for this module in the semester in which you intend to present your internship in a colloquium of the institute and write your internship report. The internship should involve at least 150 hours of practical work; the details of the internship (length, work load, tasks) should be confirmed by the internship supervisor in form an internship certificate. Note that only those internships comply with the requirements of the module that do not involve restrictions of secrecy wrt. to your activities and the applied research methods. If you will not be allowed to report on the central aspects of your practical work, you should look for some other internship. The presentation of the internship will be scheduled for the last week of the lecture period or the first week of the following semester break . At the point of presentation the internship has to be finished.

MODULE 04-046-2035**LANGUAGE IN FOCUS**Special Module

Syntax under Pressure: The View from Phonology**Paula Fenger**

Monday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 301

This course deals with phenomena, such as word order or clitic placement, that have traditionally been seen and analyzed as syntactic, but have received alternative explanations through phonological means. In this course we will discuss these, and other phenomena from these different frameworks. On the one hand we will evaluate what types of tests can be used to distinguish between different assumptions and frameworks, and whether or not certain 'syntactic' phenomena should indeed be analyzed in the phonology, or can still receive syntactic explanations.

Syntax under Pressure from Morphology: Auxiliary constructions**Philipp Weisser**

Friday 9:15-10:45 NSG, S 223

Starting date: April 12, 2024

In this course, we will take a closer look at auxiliary constructions and a number of related phenomena and discuss the question as to whether these are more adequately modelled as a syntactic or as morphological phenomena. While auxiliary constructions have standardly been modelled by means of distinct syntactic structures and specific operations (e.g. non-local selection), some more recently proposed changes in the conception of the architecture of grammar (in particular the move towards a partly generative postsyntactic model of morphology) have made it possible to reanalyze many auxiliary constructions as purely morphological repairs of problems created by the syntactic derivation (e.g. morphological approaches to do-support, be-insertion or the be/have-alternation). We will try to evaluate whether those kinds of reanalyses were successful and whether they can account for all auxiliary constructions or for only a subset of them.

In the second half of the course, we will broaden our view and look at some less frequently discussed phenomena, including optionality in auxiliaries, issues concerning agreement with auxiliaries, negative auxiliaries, cases of verb-doubling or periphrastic constructions with derivational morphology.

Literature will be given at the beginning of the semester.

Syntax under Pressure: The View from Semantics**Gereon Müller**

Friday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 127

Starting date: April 12, 2024

There is a recent trend in grammatical theory to systematically hold semantic considerations responsible for what has traditionally been viewed as syntactic restrictions, by invoking concepts such as type mismatch. The goal of this seminar is to look at certain kinds of phenomena where this has been suggested, including passivization, movement (e.g., with respect to weak islands, minimality, tough-movement, and parasitic gaps), binding, case, and control; and to determine to what extent the semantic reinterpretations of what at first sight look like syntactic phenomena is viable and/or convincing.

Reading: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Participants: master students, doctoral students

Further course of interest (without credits)**The History of Linguistics: A Leipzig Perspective****Gereon Müller**

Tuesday 17:15-18:45 NSG, S 127

Starting date: April 9, 2024

This lecture-seminar will look at the history of modern linguistics, based on studies of the lives and work of important linguists working or studying at Leipzig University. As we will see, this focus is not quite as narrow as it may look at first sight since it will permit a closer look at virtually all relevant developments in modern linguistics since 1870 or so, from the Neogrammarians via structuralism to Chomskyan grammatical theory. More specifically, we will consider Ferdinand de Saussure, August Leskien, Karl Brugmann, Karl Verner, Jan Niecislaw Baudouin de Courtenay, Hermann Osthoff, Wilhelm Braune, Hermann Paul, Georg von der Gabelentz, Eduard Sievers, Wilhelm Wundt, Lucien Tesnière, Leonard Bloomfield, Nikolaj Trubetzkoy, Wilhelm Streitberg, Rudolf Ruzicka, Manfred Bierwisch, Klaus Baumgaertner, Gerhald Helbig, and Anita Steube. If there is sufficient interest, the lecture-seminar will be accompanied by bike tours visiting the places where these linguists lived, worked, and did other things.

Participants: bachelor students, master students, doctoral students

COLLOQUIA (without credits)**Semantics Reading Group****Barbara Stiebels**

Thursday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 223

At the beginning of the semester we will determine the semantic topics the participants are interested in. We will read and discuss papers on these topics. The papers to be read could be a mixture of descriptive vs. theoretical accounts, introductory vs. more specialized texts, focusing on a single language or taking a cross-linguistic/typological perspective. The reading group is open to everyone.

Participants: (advanced) bachelor students, master students, doctoral students

Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax**Gereon Müller**

Friday 14:00-15:30 HSG, HS 20

Starting date: April 12, 2024

In this colloquium, we discuss recent work in morphology and syntax that either goes back to the participants's own research or has recently been published.

Participants: The colloquium is open to all