Module enrollment

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 29 September 2021 (12pm) and 4 October 2021 (5pm).

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

Freshman orientation

Informations on study regulations and module enrollment

Maria Kouneli

Monday, 4 October 2021 11:15am – 12:45pm, Neues Seminargebäude, Room S 113

Module recommendations for first semester students

We recommend the foundational module Phonology, Morphology, Syntax (04-046-2002) and the two advanced modules Non-Local Syntax (04-046-2016) and Linguistic Typology (04-046-2031). Alternatively, you may choose a module from a different department (e.g., English studies, German studies). However, you have to check whether you would be admitted to the module (in terms of required qualifications and teaching capacities). In addition, you have to apply for taking that module by submitting this Antrag to the chair of the exams committee (Prof. Kobele). If you are interested in taking the special module Research internship (04-046-2034), you should do so in a higher semester.

Form of the courses

Please check the information on our Homepage.

MODULE 04-046-2002

Phonology

Eva Zimmermann

Thursday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 111

The minor goal of this course is to become familiar with the most important theoretical tools to approach the phonology of natural languages: Distinctive Features, autosegmental and prosodic representations, ordered rules, the cycle, and violable constraints. Its major goal is to learn applying all these tools rigorously and creatively to real data from natural languages.

References:
Morphology  Yuriy Kushnir/
Wednesday  13:15-14:45  NSG, S 211

Mariia Privizentseva

This class is an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will present empirical questions that morphological theory intends to solve and theoretical concepts employed for this. We will also read recent published work and discuss current research problems. The ultimate goal of the course is to learn how to recognize and analyze theoretically relevant morphological phenomena.

Syntax  Fabian Heck
Thursday  11:15-12:45  NSG, S 111

The purpose of this course is twofold. First, it is supposed to make students who just entered the MA-program in linguistics in Leipzig (and who did not take the introductory syntax course in module 04-006-1003) familiar with the most fundamental properties of the derivational syntactic theory usually referred to as the "Minimalist Program" (MP; mostly based on Chomsky 1995, 2000, 2001). Second, it aims at addressing further topics within this theory that are not covered by the introductory course. Such topics may (but need not) include binding (Principle A, B, C), cyclicity (the cycle, strict cyclicity, tucking-in), locality (MLC, PIC, Freezing, Leap Frogging), Agree (upward, downward, cyclic, gluttonic, multiple), copies (reconstruction, linearization), case (alignment systems, dependent case), labeling. The concrete syllabus can be adopted to the students' needs.

MODULE 04-046-2016  NON-LOCAL SYNTAX
Advanced Module

Constraints on Movement  Gereon Müller
Tuesday  17:15-18:45  NSG, S 127

In this seminar we will be concerned with constraints on syntactic movement, from Chomsky's legendary A-over-A Principle from 1964 to recent concepts of phase impenetrability and anti-locality. We will look at empirical evidence from a variety of typologically different languages; and we will also consider approaches based on a variety of different theories of grammar (Minimalist Program, GPSG, HPSG, Optimality Theory, Gradient Harmonic Grammar). Lit.: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

For preparation, participants may want to look at this overview paper:

Syntax and Scope  Gregory M. Kobele
Friday  11:15-12:45  NSG, S 111

The structure of a sentence bears some relation to its meaning, but which exactly? In this course we focus on surveying the empirical landscape of scope taking. Different theoretical proposals will be evaluated with respect to their predictions, and we will attempt a synthesis.

Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax  Gereon Müller
Friday  14:00-15:30  NSG, S 302

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.
Typology of clause-embedding predicates
Barbara Stiebels

Tuesday 09:15-11:45 NSG, S 111

Languages vary in their inventories of clause-embedding predicates (CEPs) and their clausal complementation structures. The size of the CEP inventory affects the semantic/lexical differentiation of CEPs, often leading to vague/generic CEPs in languages with small inventories. The differentiation of readings is then often triggered by material in the clausal complement. It is the goal of the course to study the cross-linguistic distribution of syntactic and semantic parameters of CEPs such as their use as control, raising, ECM, bridge or restructuring predicates and their readings as attitude predicates (with subclassifications as factive, implicative, doxastic, bouletic predicates etc.) or non-attitude predicates. We will also look at the interaction of the reading of the CEP with material in the complement clause. The seminar will also address methodological issues in sampling and lexical typology.

Lit. (provided in class)

Typology of negation
Barbara Stiebels

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

The course will deal with the morphosyntax and semantics of negation in typological perspective. The course will address the following topics:

- Markers of negation (exponence and position)
- Symmetrical vs. asymmetrical negation
- Negative derivational morphology
- The diachronic development of negation: the Jespersen cycle and the Croft cycle (negative existentials)
- Double negation, negative concord and negative indefinites
- Negative polarity items
- Polarity-related phenomena (e.g. case marking)
- NEG-raising
- Inherently negative predicates and expletive negation

Lit. (as introduction):

Linguistic Typology
Barbara Stiebels

Tuesday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 111

The colloquium provides a forum to present and discuss ongoing research in linguistic typology. Presentations and suggestions for readings are welcome. The program will be fixed in the first meeting.

Reasearch Internship
Barbara Stiebels

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/Jena. 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.
Phonology Reading Group
Monday 10:00-11:30 Beethovenstr. 15, 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.

Readings in Linguistics
Wednesday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 111

We will read and discuss topics in and around linguistics. Topics TBD in the first week of class.