

Institut für Linguistik  
**Master Linguistics**  
Winter semester 2024/25

Stand: 9/5/2024

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

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**MODULEINSCHREIBUNG – Module enrolment**

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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 October 2, 2024 (12:00) and October 7, 2024 (17:00).**

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/studying/current-students/module-registration/>

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**Freshman orientation**

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Information on study regulations and module enrolment

**Jochen Trommer**

Thursday, October 10, 2024    13:00 – 14:00 o'clock  
Room S 226  
(Neues Seminargebäude, Campus Augustusplatz)

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**Module recommendations for first semester students**

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We recommend the foundational modules *Semantics* (04-046-2001) and *Phonology, Morphology, Syntax* (04-046-2002). As third module, you could either enrol for the advanced module *Local Syntax* (04-046-2015), the special module *Methods and Practice of Linguistic Research* (04-009-1009; see below for details) or 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. Heck).

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

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**MODULE 04-046-2001**

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**SEMANTICS**  
Foundational Module

**Compositionality and minimalist grammars**

**Gregory M. Kobele**

Tuesday    11:15-12:45    NSG, S 412

How is the meaning of a sentence related to its structure? In this course we focus on minimalist grammars and how to interpret them. We begin by discussing the standard LF-interpretation ideas of Heim & Kratzer, before exploring directly compositional alternatives, as well as possible syntactic category/semantic type correspondences, which will encourage us to develop syntactic and semantic analyses in lock step.

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**Lexical Semantics**

**Barbara Stiebels**

Thursday    9:15-10:45    NSG, S 423

This course will deal with the semantics of lexical items (e.g., aktionsart and event semantics of verbs, semantic verb classes, conceptual shifts in nouns, dimensional adjectives, adpositions and similar local expressions, semantics of derivational morphology), semantic relations between lexical items (e.g., the role of synonymy and antonymy), concepts such as polysemy and vagueness and interface properties of word meaning. In addition, various approaches to word meaning will be discussed (e.g., Bierwisch's two-level approach to meaning, Pustejovsky's Generative Lexicon, Jackendoff's Conceptual Semantics).

Literature (as introduction):

- Pustejovsky, James & Olga Batiukova. 2019. *The lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Murphy, M. Lynne. 2003. *Semantic relations and the lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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**When enrolling for the module, please select one of the following two courses:**

**Reading group in (sentential) semantics**

**Gregory M. Kobele**

Tuesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 412

We will read and discuss papers about various topics, in particular compositionality and contexts.

**Reading group Semantic typology**

**Barbara Stiebels**

Thursday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 125

In this reading group we will discuss recent cross-linguistic or typological studies in semantics as well as descriptions/analyses of semantic phenomena in lesser studied languages. If necessary or requested, we can also read some introductory chapters to selected semantic phenomena.

Everyone is welcome to represent ongoing research on semantic phenomena.

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**MODULE 04-046-2002**

**PHONOLOGY, MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX**

Foundational Module

**Morphology**

**Philipp Weisser**

Monday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 423

This seminar serves as an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will discuss the most important terms, concepts, and topics that morphology deals with, and we will study the different theoretical frameworks that have been proposed to account for the puzzles in the field. We will also discuss how morphology connects to other modules of the grammar, by investigating the syntax-morphology and the phonology-morphology interface. Finally, we will read recent published work to understand how trends in morphology connect to current research questions.

**Syntax**

**Fabian Heck**

Wednesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 327

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.

**Phonology**

**Jochen Trommer**

Thursday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 322

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.

Literature: - Kenstowicz, M. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge MA: Blackwell.  
- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.

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**MODULE 04-046-2015**

**LOCAL SYNTAX**

Advanced Module

**Selection and Projection**

**Michael Frazier**

Monday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 423

This course focuses on the relationship between the hierarchical organization and categorial status of the extended projection(s) of the verb phrase and the selectional properties of (higher than monotransitive) verbs. Special attention will be paid to argument-structure alternations.

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### The A-/A-bar Distinction in Syntax

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

Gereon Müller

In this research-oriented seminar, we will be concerned with the distinction between A-movement and A-bar movement. We will consider standard approaches (relying on different positions, or on different features). And we will, ideally, try to investigate the potential of an extremely simple new timing-based approach that pursues the null hypothesis, tied to the presence vs. absence of the moved item in the respective position.

Literature: - will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

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### Last-resort operations in syntax

Friday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 113

Yuriy Kushnir

In this class, we will look at a range of phenomena called "last-resort operations" in syntax. These phenomena usually involve a process that is not allowed under normal circumstances but applies exceptionally when the entire derivation is in danger of not converging. A classic example of this is do-support in Modern English. Since verbs do not normally raise to T and the negative particle "not" needs a verbal host to its left, the dummy verb "do" is inserted in the simple present and past tenses in order to provide such a host (one of the possible analyses). Apart from do-support, we will take a look at other instances of last-resort operations, such as: (a) case-driven object raising in Bantu languages and Lithuanian; (b) adding of probes for argument licensing purposes; (c) promotion to ergative in constructions with psych verbs; (d) MLC violations due to locality requirements; (e) resumption due to subject movement and others. The exact reading list for the course will be announced in the first session. Students will be expected to actively participate in the discussions, e.g. by preparing a mini-presentation and leading (part of) the seminar. At the end of the semester, MA students taking the class for credits will be asked to write a short essay addressing a last-resort phenomenon in a given language.

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## 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.

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## SPECIAL MODULE

The module [04-006-1009 Methods and Practice of Linguistic Research](#) may be attended as Special module (if not already taken as part of the Bachelor degree).

Registration via Tool is not possible; registration has to be done via the registration form provided at the beginning of the lecture period ([see website](#)). In addition, this [application](#) form has to be [sent](#) to the head of the examination committee.

### Cross-linguistic variation in imperatives

Monday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 213

Paula Fenger

In this course we look at the morphological, syntactic and semantic behavior of imperative verb forms. Many languages use 'impoverished' verb forms (less agreement), bare verb forms or infinitival forms to express commands. Interestingly, it seems to be much less frequent to find negated imperatives cross-linguistically (\*not go' in English) : some languages use an extra verb form (cf., 'do not go' in English), others use a different verb form, like a subjunctive or an infinitival form, and again others use an imperative verb form with negation used in embedded clauses rather than matrix clauses. The question is what the limits of the choices are, and why a particular language chooses a particular form in a given context. This is especially relevant, since there are languages that do allow embedded imperatives (such as German, Korean, Slovenian). In the course we will read relevant literature, determine what the open questions are, and build our own cross-linguistic database.

**The Phonology of Clitics**

Thursday 9:15-10:45 NSG, S 322

**Jochen Trommer**

Clitics are a dazzling, heterogeneous and elusive non-category somewhere between affixes and independent words. The goal of this course is to give an overview over the phonology of clitics. This means on the one hand phonological explanations why a specific formative behaves as a clitic (e.g. its segmental and prosodic specifications, see Selkirk 1995), and on the other hand special phonological behavior which follows from its clitic status (e.g., triggering of epenthesis in contexts where it is not found elsewhere in the language, Bonet & Lloret 2005). Finally, the positioning of clitics often seems to be determined at least partially by phonological factors (Halpern 1992).

Literature: - Bonet, E. and Lloret, M.-R. (2005) Against serial evaluation in Optimality Theory. *Lingua* 115:1303–1323.  
- Halpern, A. (1992) Topics in the Placement and Morphology of Clitics. PhD thesis, Stanford University.  
- Selkirk, E. (1995) The prosodic structure of function words. In *Papers in Optimality Theory*, UMass Occasional Papers 18:439–469.

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**COLLOQUIA (without credits)**

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**Phonology reading group**

Monday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 423

**Jochen Trommer**

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.

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**Recent work in morphology and syntax**

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

**Gereon Müller**

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