

Syllabus

for course at first level

The History of Languages
Språkens historia

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

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|--------------------------|--|
| Course code: | LIN019 |
| Valid from: | Autumn 2017 |
| Date of approval: | 2012-03-14 |
| Changed: | 2017-06-13 |
| Department | Department of Linguistics |
| Main field: | Linguistics |
| Specialisation: | G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements |

Decision

This curriculum was developed by the Faculty Board of Humanities 2012-03-14 and last revised by the Board of the Department of Linguistics 2017-06-13.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Basic eligibility.

Course structure

| Examination code | Name | Higher Education Credits |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0019 | The History of Languages | 7.5 |

Course content

This course deals with the relations between language situation and society through history. It includes an overview of different eras, with a focus on the interaction between societal change, linguistic change and meta-linguistic change (such as changes in language names). A recurrent theme is the relation between spoken and written language. Fundamental concepts within historical linguistics, such as sound laws, analogy, reconstruction, reanalysis and grammaticalisation are discussed with examples from various language families. Both classic and modern methods in historical linguistic research are introduced.

Learning outcomes

Having completed the course, students are expected to be able to

- give an account of the most important changes in the situation of languages from the stone age until modern times
- give an account of the most fundamental diachronic processes in linguistics and to apply them to elementary language samples
- reflect on the connections between societal change, linguistic change and meta-linguistic change.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures. Active participation in learning activities is expected.

Forms of examination

- a) The course is examined on the basis of a written assignments.

b) Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent
B = Very good
C = Good
D = Satisfactory
E = Adequate
Fx = Inadequate
F = Totally Inadequate

The scale refers to the final grades for the course as a whole. Some examination parts may be graded according to a different scale. Details are given in the grading criteria.

c) Students will be informed of the grading criteria when the course starts.

d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on all examination parts (or a different passing grade in cases where the seven-point scale is not used).

e) Each time the course is given, one regular examination opportunity and one re-examination opportunity are given. not achieved a pass may take the exam again at the regular examination opportunity when the course is next given, provided that they have registered for the course that semester.

Students who receive the grade E or higher (or a different passing grade in cases where the seven-point scale is not used) may not re-take the examination to attain a higher grade.

Students who receive the grade Fx or F (or a different non-passing grade in cases where the seven-point scale is not used) twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

f) The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade on may be permitted if the student is close to meeting the criteria for a passing grade. The assignment should be submitted within a week of the examiner notifying the student of the need to supplement the examination. Adequate corrections of flaws related to understanding – minor misunderstandings, minor inaccuracies or too limited arguments – will be graded using C-E. Adequate corrections of simple mistakes related to formatting will be graded using the grades A-E.

Interim

When the course is no longer offered or its contents have been substantially altered, the student has the right to be examined according to this course syllabus once per semester for a three further semesters. The restrictions stated in the examination section still apply.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken and passed in Sweden or elsewhere, of fully or partially overlapping content.

Required reading

For the current reading list, please see the department's education pages at www.ling.su.se/english/. The list will be made available no later than a month before the start of the course.