

Subject card

Subject name and code	Contemporary theories of language, PG_00141848						
Field of study	English Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Division of Corpus Linguistics and Glottodidactics -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Joanna Redzimska				
	Teachers		dr Joanna Redzimska				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		43.0	75
Subject objectives	The objective of this course is to acquaint students with contemporary trends in linguistic studies, focusing on the key issues of interest to linguists, as well as the traditions from which modern research trends in natural language emerge, particularly formal linguistics and cognitive linguistics.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FAMU2_W01] Knows and understands in depth selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of English linguistics	The student possesses advanced general knowledge and a deep understanding of selected issues in the area of historical and modern linguistics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAMU2_W05] Knows and understands advanced terminology in the field of linguistics, in particular those used in English language studies.	The student possesses in-depth knowledge and understanding of advanced linguistic terminology, especially that used in research on the modern theories of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAMU2_W09] Knows and understands to an in-depth extent advanced methods of analysis relevant to linguistics, including, in particular, those applicable to English language studies.	The student knows and understands the main developmental trends in linguistics, particularly concerning modern theories of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAMU2_W03] Knows and understands in depth advanced research methodologies and theories in the field of English linguistics.	The student possesses in-depth knowledge and understanding of advanced research methodologies and theories in the field of English linguistics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAMU2_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the extent of their knowledge and skills, in particular in the field of English-language linguistics and literature and English.	The student is prepared for a critical assessment of the scope of their knowledge and skills, particularly in the field of modern theories of language.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[FAMU2_U06] Can communicate in speech and writing in English and Polish with diverse audiences on specialized topics in the field of linguistics and literature, also using advanced specialized terminology.	The student is able to communicate with diverse audiences on the matter of modern theories of language using advanced linguistic terminology.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	Historical-Comparative Perspective: • The origin of language as an evolutionary achievement • The origin of writing as a civilizational achievement • The first scientific studies of language (ancient India and Greece): recognition of basic structural categories of language (parts of speech; phonemes allophones, morphemes allomorphs, lexemes words), grammatical-semantic categories (subject, predicate, noun, verb), and grammatical categories (number, gender, case, person, tense, aspect, mood). • Medieval and scholastic linguistics: speculative grammar (Modistae). • Beginnings of the idea of universal grammar, normative grammar (linguistic studies of the Enlightenment). • The emergence and development of lexicography Modern Perspective: • Structuralism (including structuralist semantic theories: componential analysis, amalgamation of semantic components) • Main assumptions of generative grammar • Main assumptions of functional linguistics • The theory of linguistic relativism (Sapir-Whorf hypothesis) • Pragmatic theories of implicature and speech acts • Key ideas of the cognitive approach to language research • Main assumptions of computational linguistics		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	choosing linguistic specialization		
	the knowledge of English at C1 level		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	oral or written test/exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Jespersen, Otto. 1964. Language : its nature, development and origin. New York : W. W. Norton & Company. Kristeva, Julia. 1989. Language, the unknown : an initiation into linguistics. New York : Columbia University Press. O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., & Rees-Miller, J. (2000). <i>Contemporary linguistics: An introduction</i> (4th ed.). Bedford/St. Martins. Paveau Marie-Anne, Sarfati Georges-Élia. 2009. Wielkie teorie językoznawcze : od językoznawstwa historyczno-porównawczego do pragmatyki [Main trends in linguistics : from comparative grammar to pragmatics]. Kraków : Avalon Sampson, G. (2024). <i>Structural linguistics in the 21st century</i>. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Wacewicz, Sławomir, Przemysław Żywiczyński. 2016. Ewolucja języka. W stronę hipotez gesturalnych. [Evolution of language. Towards gestural hypotheses]. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UMK Weisenberg, Adam. 1983. Językoznawstwo ogólne [General linguistics]. Warszawa : Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.
	Supplementary literature	Allan, K., Linguistic Meaning, t. 1, 2, London New York 1986. (selected fragments) Crystal, D., The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Cambridge 1987. (selected fragments) Lyons, J. 1968. Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (selected fragments) Robins, R.H. 1967. A Short History of Linguistics. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press. Ungerer, Friedrich i Hans-Jörg Schmid. 1996. An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics. London: Longman (ch. 1-2).
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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