# **English Language and Applied Linguistics**

# **Module Descriptions 2024/25**

# **Level I (i.e. 2nd Yr.) and Level H (i.e. Final Year) Modules**

Please be aware that all modules are subject to availability.

**The modules listed in this handbook explore theoretical and practical concepts related to English Language study. They are not suitable for students wishing to develop their own proficiency in English Language writing or comprehension and should only be taken by students who already have a sophisticated understanding of the English Language.**

Please note that at the time this document has been prepared (March 2024) the following information is provisional, and there may be minor changes between now and the beginning of 2024/25 academic year.

**Please note: Forms of assessment are currently undergoing review for 2024/25, and as a result the assessment information listed within this handbook may be subject to change.**

# **SEMESTER 1 LI MODULES**

## **Discourse Analysis**

MODULE CODE: 27753

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x Essays (50% each)

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**Description**

Discourse Analysis is a branch of linguistics that examines how language is used in different social contexts and for different purposes. This includes, among other things, studying how news organizations use language to narrate and create a certain ‘version’ of events, how politicians use language persuasively to win the support of voters, and how speakers draw on their linguistic and cultural knowledge to interpret other peoples’ intentions. The module offers a general introduction to theories and methods commonly used in Discourse Analysis. We will look at a variety of discourse analysis frameworks and the typical kinds of texts and/or stretches of spoken language they are used to analyse. For example, we will explore Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and its application to news reporting, and Conversation Analysis and its application to casual, everyday conversations.

## **History of the English Language**

MODULE CODE: 22445

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Analysis essay and 1x 5 minute presentation

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical development of the English Language. It provides an overview of English from its origins up to the present day, including changes in words and the meanings of words, grammatical behaviour, and pronunciation. We consider the interaction between language variation and change and societal developments, including ideas of standards and purity in language as well as the impact of technology. Students will be instructed in the exploration, analysis, and description of language from a historical perspective.

## **Language Education and Literacy**

MODULE CODE: 39771

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Portfolio

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**Description**

This module explores key issues in language education and literacy. It discusses approaches to Education in a global context examining how cultural and social norms influence definitions of what the term an "educated individual" means. It then focuses more closely on educational philosophies which refer to literacy (the activities/skills of reading and writing) and explores the tensions between theories and practices of literacy both in home and school contexts. The module adopts a critical approach to literacy and uses examples of early reading and writing to challenge and/or confirm long-held beliefs and theories in the field of literacy. At a more national/local level, the module explores issues such as poverty and disability in the UK which impact the literacy levels of children and critically explores policies which aim to support literacy progress and attainment.

## **Structure of English**

MODULE CODE: 40000

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Timed assessment (x2)

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**Description**

This module develops knowledge in the key areas of Grammar and Phonetics and Phonology, which are two key aspects of the study of language. It builds on the foundational knowledge acquired in first year to give students a detailed understanding of these topics as they relate to the English Language. This includes:

* In-depth knowledge of the morphology and syntax of English (Grammar), how we classify words according to grammatical properties, how to describe and analyse grammatical relations, and how these aspects are treated in contemporary linguistics. Students will learn to apply these concepts to the description of genuine written and spoken texts at various levels of analysis.
* Detailed understanding of the ways in which the sounds of English are produced and analysed (Phonetics and Phonology). Students will become familiar with the concepts and terminology used to describe the phonetics and phonology of English and other languages. Students will learn to explore and apply these concepts in the analysis of recordings of spoken English and theoretical cases, and in the context of related topics, such as phonological development and speech perception.

The two halves of the module will run concurrently (Grammar: 1 x 1 hour workshop and 1 x 1 hour seminar per week; Phonetics and Phonology: 1 x 1 hour workshop and 1 x 1 hour seminar per week). The knowledge and skills gained in this module will help students to undertake analysis of natural language samples and apply their understanding to other modules at levels LI and LH.

# **SEMESTER 2 LI MODULES**

## **Data Skills for the Digital World**

MODULE CODE: 39274

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Data Analysis project

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module introduces students to quantitative, data-oriented methods that are increasingly common in the study of language and the humanities, with an emphasis on the development of practical skills for students’ future work at university and beyond. The module focuses on introducing data analysis and statistics in a way that is accessible to language and humanities students, and on getting students underway with analysis of their own data. Students will be introduced to the statistical programming environment “R”, which is widely used in linguistics and other scientific fields. In both workshops and seminars, students will gain experience working with different kinds of data in R, and will be given the opportunity to collect their own data and create digital materials such as blogs or online dashboards for effective “data storytelling”. Students will learn how to create online content using reproducible workflows, documenting their work at each stage of data collection, analysis, and presentation.

## **Psycholinguistics**

MODULE CODE: 27523

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module looks at how language is represented and processed in the human mind. We examine experimental evidence and theoretical models of the different levels of language to understand topics such as: how we access words and concepts; how we process words visually and auditorily; how we understand complex syntactic structures; how we plan and produce spoken language; and how we use and understand figurative language. The module focuses on an objective, data driven approach where carefully designed language experiments are at the heart of our understanding. To support this, we will also spend time considering methodology and aspects of experimental design that help us to investigate language processing in an empirical way, and you will be asked to take part in a series of language experiments to help develop your understanding of the different approaches that can be utilised.

## **Sociolinguistics**

MODULE CODE: 26680

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module explores the relationship between language and society, examining how variation in sound, syntax, morphology and lexis distribute across different aspects of society – for example, the correlation between the use of particular linguistic forms and social class groups, genders, age groups and geographical areas. The module considers the associations that develop between aspects of a speaker's identity and different linguistic forms, the role of prestige (overt and covert), stigmatization and the significance of one's social networks and communities, and how these facets of variation lead to large-scale changes in the English language.

## **Stylistics**

MODULE CODE: 39769

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x essay

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module introduces stylistics as an approach to the study of literary and other creative texts. Stylistics focuses in close detail on language in order to ask questions about how those texts work and what it is that makes them distinctive or effective. The module explores a wide range of texts – poems, novels, plays, advertising, television – and encourages students to make use of a set of stylistic tools to help understand the workings of those texts. For example, by paying attention to word choice, we might see how an author encourages readers to feel that they are ‘seeing’ the world from a particular character’s point of view. Or, by paying attention to conversational turn-taking patterns, we might come to understand how viewers of a police drama get the impression that an interaction is not going well for the suspect. In short, the module aims to equip students with a set of analytical tools that they can use to make sense of texts and their meanings.

# **SEMESTER 1 LH MODULES**

## **Clinical Linguistics**

MODULE CODE: 28696

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Data analysis and 1x essay

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

This module will introduce students to a range of language impairments in children and adults. It will draw on detailed linguistic knowledge to consider developmental disorders of speech and language in children, and acquired and degenerative language disorders in adults. Students will be given the opportunity to analyse language data to consider the impact of specific conditions across all linguistic subsystems, including phonetics and phonology, syntax and morphology, and semantics and pragmatics. The module will focus on the linguistic aspects of different conditions, paying close attention to how detailed analysis can help us to understand the nature of language impairment.

## **English Language Teaching**

MODULE CODE: 19606

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Lesson observation report and 1x essay/lesson plan

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

In this module we will explore the principles and practice of English language teaching, especially the teaching of English as a foreign or second language (EFL/ESL). We will explore theories and ideas which underlie the ways in which English is or can be taught. Some of these will be new to you, but some may be familiar from previous modules. There will be plenty of opportunities to relate theoretical knowledge to pedagogic practice, including the observation of real language lessons, and the creation of English language teaching materials. Topics covered will include an overview of language teaching theories and methodologies, the teaching of grammar and vocabulary, managing the classroom, and designing and planning lessons.

## **Exploring Linguistic Diversity**

MODULE CODE: 28649

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x Essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

This module gives an introduction to the diversity and essential characteristics of the world’s languages, how data is collected in linguistic typology, and how it can be described and analysed. It will draw on and extend the concepts and methods that students have acquired in their English language studies thus far to tackle one of the fundamental questions in contemporary linguistics: how much do languages differ from each other? We will study this question across a range of linguistic subsystems, including phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax, drawing on case studies from languages around the world. The issue of language endangerment, and the challenges of language documentation, will also be discussed.

## **Phraseology**

MODULE CODE: 29572

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x Essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

Traditional linguistic theory divides languages into two basic components: words, which make meanings, and grammatical rules, which determine how words can combine. But while general grammatical rules can explain why, say, “she drove a powerful car” is correct and “car powerful a drove she” is not, there are no such rules explaining why native speakers of English will accept “She drove a powerful car” but not “She drove a strong car”. How, then, can such word combination preferences and dispreferences be explained?  The aim of this module is to provide students with an in-depth introduction to phraseology, the branch of linguistics that attempts to answer this question. The first half of the module focuses on theories that attempt to describe and categorise phraseology. We then move on to consider theories that attempt to explain why so much of what we say and write is phraseological or conventional in nature. Some of these theories view phraseology from a psychological perspective, asking how word combinations are stored in, and accessed from, the mind. Others are more socially-oriented, and see phraseology as reflecting the particular cultural or institutional contexts within which human communication takes place. Students will critically assess these different views of phraseology and consider whether and to what extent they provide an alternative to the traditional “words and rules” model of language.

# **SEMESTER 2 LH MODULES**

## **Animal Communication and Language Evolution**

MODULE CODE: 32240

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Essay

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

In this module, we will examine what is currently known about animal communication and the evolution of human language. We will learn about the cognitive, biological, and structural aspects of language through comparison with various animal communication systems, spanning whales, birds, frogs, insects, primates and ancestral humans. This comparison will identify the aspects of language that humans share with other animals and those that make it special. We will also learn about current theories of the biological and cultural evolution of language. Students will have the chance to examine language from an inter-disciplinary perspective that includes biology, evolutionary theory, experimental and comparative psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and semiotics.

## **Language Change**

MODULE CODE: 29697

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x Essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

In this module, students will gain a deeper understanding of how and why languages change and how historical language research is conducted. We explore the development of recent as well as historical changes to the English language, occurring throughout the language system: grammar, morphology, word meaning, and phonology. We consider how and why innovations take place; the relationship between language change and language variation; and the spread of change throughout the speech community. We discuss the difficulties and limitations of historical language research. This includes an examination of the use of electronic corpora as a tool for investigating language change and the growing research field of historical sociolinguistics.

## **Language and the Mind**

MODULE CODE: 26649

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Research Project

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

This module explores the emerging discipline of Cognitive Linguistics – a modern and innovative approach to the study of language, which focuses on the ways in which linguistic phenomena are underpinned by more general cognitive processes, as well as embodied experiences in the natural world. The module will introduce key concepts in Cognitive Linguistics such as categorisation and construal, embodied cognition and metaphor, and will consider how these topics influence the ways in which we communicate and interact with the world. Students will use published research in Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics to help understand the topics covered and the ways in which these topics can be explored. They will conduct their own investigation into one of the topics discussed in the module.