# **English Language and Applied Linguistics**

# **Module Descriptions 2024/25**

# **Level C (i.e. 1st Yr.) 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 MODULES**

## **Fundamentals of Language: Sounds and Words**

MODULE CODE: 31569

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 3 x 2 hour online quizzes (equally weighted)

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**DESCRIPTION**

This core module explores foundational concepts and issues in the study of English language and linguistics. In particular, the module focuses on the areas of phonetic/phonology, morphology and lexical semantics. Topics covered include how the sounds of a language pattern and how they can be described, how words enter the language and how they relate to one another and carry meaning.

## **Theories of Language**

MODULE CODE: 28094

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2 x 1500 word essays (50% each)

SEMESTER: 1 (Autumn term only)

**DESCRIPTION**

The aims of this module are to provide students with (a) a sound basic knowledge and understanding of the major theories of language that have been developed within the discipline of linguistics from the beginning of the 20th century up to the present day, and (b) a sound basic awareness of the key figures associated with each of these theoretical traditions. The module begins with an overview of the basic concepts of structuralist linguistics as laid down by Saussure, before moving on to consider the generativist approach established by Chomsky. We then focus on the two main alternatives to (and critiques of) generative linguistics: functionalism, particularly in the British tradition established by Firth (e.g. Halliday, Sinclair, Hoey) and the usage-based theories associated with cognitive linguistics (e.g. Langacker, Fillmore, Lakoff, Tomasello). Throughout the module students will be encouraged to think critically about each theoretical tradition, and to consider which of the linguistic theories they are introduced to they find the most compelling and/or useful.

# **SEMESTER 2 MODULES**

## **Fundamentals of Language: Grammar and Discourse**

MODULE CODE: 31570

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2 x 1500 word essays (50% each)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**DESCRIPTION**

This core module explores foundational concepts and issues in the study of English language and linguistics. In particular, the module focuses on the areas of syntax, semantics (broadly conceived) and discourse/pragmatics. Topics covered include how words can be classified according to their grammatical properties, how they are related to each other in sentences, and how speakers understand utterances in specific contexts of interaction and make sense of each other’s communicative intentions.

## **Applied Linguistics**

MODULE CODE: 29973

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Timed assignment: 3 hour online quiz (100%)

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**DESCRIPTION**

Applied linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that investigates and offers solutions to real-life problems, questions and issues in which language plays a central role. Although originally restricted to the topic of language learning and teaching, applied linguistics now encompasses a much wider range of concerns, including literacy, language testing, bilingualism and multilingualism, translation, language policy and planning, discourse analysis, stylistics and forensic linguistics, among others.

This module aims to give students:

1. a broad understanding of how Applied Linguistics has developed as a field, and of what distinguishes it from theoretical linguistics;

2. a broad understanding of the aims, scope and diversity of the field in its current form;

3. an opportunity to study key developments in some of the major subfields of Applied Linguistics in more depth.

4. an ability to offer balanced and informed assessments of published research in Applied Linguistics.