GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

General Linguistics: Theories and Methods (A000359)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Verroens, Filip	LW06	staff member
Willems, Klaas	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
Farasyn, Melissa	LW06	co-lecturer
Lauwers, Peter	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Linguistic theories, linguistic methods, historical linguistics, structuralism, generative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, language data.

Position of the course

This general course provides students with an advanced scientific insight in some of the fundamental topics related to natural language and provide them with knowledge in the most important linguistic theories and methods of the 20th and early 21st century.

Contents

A review of linguistic theories and methods of the 20th century:

1) a critical overview of structural, functional, cognitive and generative linguistic models;
2) a comparison of the different models with respect to their field of study, modes and levels of linguistic description and the research methods used;
3) applications of different theoretical approaches to concrete linguistic data.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course 'Introduction to (Text)Linguistics' (general course 1st Bachelor) or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 To know the most important modern linguistic trends and methods and to be able to compare them with one another.
2 To have an insight in language in a broad sense, from different perspectives.
3 To reflect critically on the necessary distinctions and concepts in linguistic research.
4 To be able to apply different theoretical approaches to linguistic phenomena.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures on campus with additional reading assignments (as a rule, there are no recordings of the lectures).

Study material

None

References

Reading list: Jakobson (1941) on the relation between child language, aphasia and language typology; Sybesma (2002) on generative grammar; Lakoff (1987) on cognitive linguistics.

Course content-related study coaching

Collective tutoring with regard to the reading materials

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

1 *Assessment moment*
End-of-term evaluation (100%)

Assessment form
Written exam with 20 multiple choice questions and 3 essay questions (one essay question about each part of the course)

Calculation of the examination mark

Multiple choice questions: 50%, three essay questions: 50%. The three parts (of the three lecturers) count equally in the total score.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
2 Feedback can be given by email
Extra information:
Studying the notes of fellow students is recommened to fully understand the subject matter which is summarized in the handouts, Powerpoint presentations and additional reading material.
For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm