

English linguistics: functional grammar (A002574)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	seminar lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Taverniers, Miriam	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English, linguistics, functional grammar, functional linguistics, functionalist linguistics

Position of the course

This master's level course gives students insight into the aims of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), with a special focus on its application to texts.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the master programme in English, students are expected to develop from an initial CEFR C1 level into a first-stage C2 level ("Mastery").

Exchange students are welcome in this course provided that (1) they are MA students (general requirement: exchange students can only take courses corresponding to their own study level), and (2) they have a foundation in grammatical theory and analysis of English, which will be assumed as a starting point for this course.

Contents

Introduction to Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG); theory, description and application.

The model adopted is Halliday's version of Systemic Functional Grammar, more specifically the ideational component within that model (i.e. the way in which representational meanings are construed). Topics covered in the course include the representation of events, verb alternations, clause combining, nominalization as a type of grammatical metaphor. Description and analysis will focus initially on the clause and then extend to full texts, with an exploration of how choices in the clauses within a text contribute to its overall meaning.

Initial competences

To have completed at least two English linguistics courses from Ba1 and Ba2 (excluding English Proficiency I and II, and English Language/Text Proficiency I, II and III).

To master English at CEFR C1 level ("Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).

Final competences

- 1 Describe the principles and methodology of functional grammar and illustrate them by means of examples.
- 2 Analyse the functional structure of clauses and sentences.
- 3 Relate functional clause analysis to the choices made by speakers/writers in the text as a whole.
- 4 Relate the choices made at clause level to different text-types, genres and registers.
- 5 To make use of digital methods to work collaboratively or individually on project-based research processes.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Delivery of content through lectures, using Powerpoint.
- Coached exercises.
- Group work: Text analysis sessions in small groups with coaching and feedback by the lecturer.
- Presentation of the results of the group work for the whole class
- Blended learning: interactive exercises and tasks (made in groups) in shared online learning environments.
- Lessons take place on campus. Lesson recordings are not utilized unless specifically requested or required.

Study material

None

References

Egins, Suzanne. 1994. *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Pinter.
Halliday, M.A.K. & Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen. 2004. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive coaching through Ufora and e-mail; in groups in the seminars; personally after prior e-mail appointment.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

100% continuous assessment

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy:

<https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiesstudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>

