

Structures in Spoken Language (A005490)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

independent work

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Crocco, Claudia

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics \(main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective\)](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Prosody, form, functions, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, phonetics, intonation, rhythm.

Position of the course

The course focuses on the structure and functions of prosody (intonation and rhythm)

Contents

This course covers the following topics:

- acoustic phonetics
- intonation and rhythm
- prosody, syntax and pragmatics
- prosody in society

Initial competences

Master-level knowledge of syntactic theory, pragmatics, segmental phonetics.

Final competences

- 1 Insight into the theory: the student understands the most important points of the relationship between phonology and phonetics in prosody
- 2 Insight into the theory: The student can relate the content of the course to insights gained in other linguistics courses
- 3 Application of the theory: The student can independently analyze an audio fragment and can explain the most important prosodic properties of the fragment
- 4 Research skills: The student can conduct a structured discussion in which he analyzes a theme and compares different possible analyses.
- 5 Research skills: the student can independently search for, consult and critically report on scientific sources

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

None

References

- Bayer J., Hinterhölzl R. & Trotzke A. 2015. *Discourse-oriented Syntax*. John Benjamins.
- Coniglio, M. & Zegrean, I. 2012. Splitting up force. In L. Haegeman, L. Aelbrecht & R. Nye (eds.), *Main Clause Phenomena: New Horizons*, 190-229. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Frascarelli, M. & R. Hinterhölzl. 2007. Types of topics in German and Italian. In S. Winkler & K. Schwabe (eds.), *On information structure, meaning and form*, 87-116. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Frota S. 2012. Prosodic structure, constituents and their implementation. In *The Oxford Handbook of Laboratory Phonology*, ed. A Cohn, C Fougeron, M Huffman, pp. 255-65. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- Haegeman, L. & Hill, V. 2013. The syntacticization of discourse. In R. Folli, C. Sevdali & R. Truswell (eds.), *Syntax and its limits*, 370-390. Oxford University Press.
- Inkelas S, Zec D. 1995. Syntax-phonology interface. In *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*, pp. 535-49. Cambridge, Mass., and Oxford, UK: Blackwell.
- Ladd, D. R., (2008), *Intonational Phonology*, 2nd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Nespor, M. and I. Vogel (1986) *Prosodic Phonology*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Rizzi, L. 1997. The fine structure of the left periphery. In L. Haegeman (ed.), *Elements of grammar*, 281-337. Springer Netherlands.
- Selkirk E. 2011. The syntax-phonology interface. In *The Handbook of Phonological Theory, 2nd edition*, ed. J Goldsmith, J Riggle, A Yu, pp. 435-84.
- Wiltschko, M. 2014. *The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology*. Cambridge University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during lecturer's office hours (by appointment)

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Participation

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

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Continuous assessment = 50% of the final result

1 active participation to the classes

2 research tasks

Calculation of the examination mark

50% continuous assessment

50% oral examination

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course.
- Class attendance needs to be discussed with the teacher.

- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings).
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to make an appointment for feedback.