

English Linguistics: Syntax and Semantics (A005759)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Buelens, Liisa	LW06	staff member
Taverniers, Miriam	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English, linguistics, syntax, semantics, grammar

Position of the course

This advanced course helps students acquire insight into the syntax of the English language and teaches them how to make a grammatical analysis of different construction types of English. This also includes knowledge of word classes and functional categories.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the second year of the bachelor programme in English, students are expected to develop from a CEFR B2 level into a first-stage C1 level, i.e. C1.1 (first-stage "Expert"/"Effective" proficiency level).

Contents

Analysis of the syntactic and semantic structure of various construction types in English (including the simple and complex sentence, and several types of phrases).

Initial competences

To have completed the course English Language Proficiency I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

To master English at a consolidated B2 level (i.e. B2.2 or B2+, "Functional independent" proficiency).

Final competences

- 1 To have a systematic knowledge of the terminology and the most important insights and findings of modern English descriptive grammar.
- 2 To be able to describe and analyse specific grammatical constructions in English within the terminological and theoretical framework introduced in the course.
- 3 To understand the different functions (stylistic, communicative, etc.) of specific construction types in English.
- 4 To be able to make a more finegrained analysis of specific grammatical problems of English according to different grammatical models.
- 5 To be able to think critically about different approaches to specific grammatical problems of English.
- 6 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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Weekly lecture, coaching clinics on a regular basis and interactive exercises online. Lessons take place on campus. Lesson recordings are not utilized unless specifically requested or required.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Biber, Douglas, Geoffrey Leech & Susan Conrad. Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English.
London: Longman.
Indicative price: € 47
Optional: no
Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Syllabus

Name: Miriam Taverniers. 2018. English Linguistics II: Syntax and Semantics. Leuven/Gent: Acco.
Indicative price: € 25
Optional: no

Type: Other

Name: Handouts, overviews, exercises
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individually (on-line) and in groups (coaching clinics).

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam. Emphasis on theoretical insight and analysis of structures/sentences.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical: written exam

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/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>