

“Introduction to Linguistics”
17312, WiSe 2020/2021
ONLINE via Webex:
<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/meet/borowik>

Magdalena Borowik, M.A.,
Assistant Lecturer at the Institute of English
Language and Literature, Freie Universität Berlin
borowik@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Office hours: Tuesday 4-5pm (please send me an
email)

General course information

Welcome to university!

Welcome to the Free University of Berlin! If this is your first-ever seminar, you are probably going to experience a whole new degree of **freedom**—you will be free to choose classes, free to choose research topics, free to decide how much to read, how much to practice, free to decide which debates to follow up on and which to ignore, which texts to re-read and which tools to use.

With freedom comes **responsibility**. It will be your responsibility to ask about anything you do not know, otherwise we will assume that everything is clear. (Do not hesitate to ask questions, please! We love explaining things. And the others will be glad you asked.) It will be your responsibility to judge whether you really understood a topic or whether you need to go back and revise. It will be your responsibility to see to your own time management, to prepare for class each week, to take useful notes when you read texts—and to decide when to stop. And it will be your responsibility to get in touch with any of us, at any time, if you need help with anything.

Whatever you do: to communicate is better than not to communicate!

How to contact us

Our e-mail addresses can be found here: <https://blogs.fu-berlin.de/linguistics/contact/>

Course Description

The scientific study of language is essential for our endeavour to understand communication, human psychology and social interaction and provides insights that are crucial for successful language teaching. This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of linguistics and will enable you to carry out your first linguistic analyses. There will be an overview of the most important concepts and characteristic phenomena on various levels of analysis (phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, phraseology, semantics, pragmatics and text linguistics). The primary object of investigation will be the English language, but examples from other languages will also occasionally be used for illustration, and the aim of the module is to teach the basics of general linguistics, applicable to all languages.

The course provides an outlook on current methods and tools used for linguistic analysis. In the end, students will be able to understand the language of linguistics and pursue further studies in the discipline.

The seminar is complemented by an obligatory lecture. Both the contents of the lecture and the contents of the seminar will be relevant for examination.

“Introduction to Linguistics”
17312, WiSe 2020/2021
ONLINE via Webex:
<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/meet/borowik>

Magdalena Borowik, M.A.,
Assistant Lecturer at the Institute of English
Language and Literature, Freie Universität Berlin
borowik@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Office hours: Tuesday 4-5pm (please send me an
email)

Credit points and workload

This seminar is worth **3 ECTS credit points**. The accompanying lecture is worth **2 ECTS credit points**. One credit point corresponds to an expected workload of 30 hours (course time and preparation/follow-up), so our course is expected to require 90 hours in total, which translates to about **six hours per week** (including course time) **for the seminar** plus **four hours per week for the lecture**. Please consider this when booking courses! Do not take too many classes. A full-time student is expected to earn about 60 credit points per year (30 per semester, on average) and work 1,800 hours in total.

Additional information:

https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/information_a-z/punktemodule.html

Tutorial

We have a wonderful new tutor called Eva Sirlinger, she introduces herself here:

<https://blogs.fu-berlin.de/linguistics/category/tutorial/>

Examination

There will not be a written final exam this year. Instead, you will be given weekly **transfer tasks each Friday at noon, to be submitted via Blackboard before the lecture the following Monday**. These tasks test whether you are able to apply the knowledge from the lecture, the weekly reading and videos and the contents of the seminar to new problems. Detailed instructions will be made available in due time.

Course bibliography

- Bieswanger, Markus. 2017. *Introduction to English linguistics* (UTB basics). 4th edition. Francke.
[Bitte unbedingt die 4. Ausgabe verwenden!]
- Herbst, Thomas. 2010. *English linguistics: A coursebook for students of English* (De Gruyter Mouton textbook). De Gruyter Mouton.
- Kortmann, Bernd. 2004. *Linguistik: Essentials: Anglistik, Amerikanistik ; Systemgebrauch*, 1st edn (Studium kompakt Anglistik, Amerikanistik). Cornelsen.
- Kortmann, Bernd. 2014. *English linguistics: essentials*, 1st edn (System use). Cornelsen.
- Mair, Christian. 2012. *English Linguistics: An introduction*, 2nd edn (bachelor-wissen). Narr Verlag.
- Plag, Ingo. 2009. *Introduction to English linguistics*, 2nd edn (Mouton textbook). Mouton de Gruyter.
- Roach, Peter. 2005. *English phonetics and phonology: A practical course*. Cambridge University Press.
- Rogers, Henry. 2005. *Writing Systems: A Linguistic Approach*. Routledge.
- Stefanowitsch, Anatol. 2019. Phraseology. [unpublished teaching material]
- Stefanowitsch, Anatol. 2020. Text linguistics. [unpublished teaching material]
- Stefanowitsch, Anatol, and Kirsten Middeke. 2019. Syntax. [unpublished teaching material]