

Courses offered for Joint Degree students in the Winter Term 2009/10

1

Linguistics:

If you encounter any difficulties registering via the online registration system FlexNow!, please contact your instructor (see [list of instructors](#)).

obligatory catch-up classes (applies ONLY for students who were asked to take a preparatory class in Linguistics before being allowed to earn credits in that area; you cannot earn credits in catch-up classes):

Introduction to English Linguistics, S, 3 SWS (incl. Tutorial) - A: (Krug), **Mon 14:15-15:45 // B:** (Ramisch), **Tue 12:15-13:45**

Content: This course is designed to introduce beginning students to the central terms and topics in current (English) linguistics. While the focus will be on present-day English, many modern irregularities (such as the differences between spelling and pronunciation or irregular verbs) can be explained in historical terms. We will therefore occasionally digress into the history of the English language in order to better understand the present. Topics to be dealt with include phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax and sociolinguistics. One class will also be devoted to the major contrasts between English and German. In order to equip students with the basic analytical skills that are essential for future linguists and teachers alike, part of the course – especially the accompanying tutorials and workshops – will be practical in nature. We will therefore analyse authentic modern English texts from a linguistic point of view.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow! from 1 October to 22 October

Teaching method: lecture, tutorials

Assessment method and exam mode: assignments, tutorials and workshops, written test

First class: A: 19 October 2009 // B: 20 October 2009

regular courses:

Early Modern English (Krug), **V, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Thu 16:00-17:30**

Content: This lecture will provide students with an overview of the English language for the period from about 1500 to 1700. The early modern period was a time during which the English language was in a state of flux and underwent some of its most radical linguistic changes, such as the establishment of periphrastic DO in questions and negations, the Great Vowel Shift or the restructuring in address forms (*thou, thee vs. ye, you*). We will discuss all levels of linguistic organization, i.e.: phonology, morphology, syntax and the lexicon. Various exemplary texts from the period will be analysed (both prose and poetry), among them, of course, passages from the most famous early modern English writer, William Shakespeare. A comparative look at the language of Shakespeare's time, mediaeval texts and the English(es) spoken today will help reveal major principles of language change.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: lecture

Assessment method and exam mode: 2 ECTS: written test; 4 ECTS: written exam

First class: 22 October 2009

Courses offered for Joint Degree students in the Winter Term 2009/10

2

Maltese English (Krug), S, 2 SWS, 6 or 8 ECTS; 20 October: 9:15-10:30; 3 November, 17 November, 1 December, 15 December, 12 January, 26 January, 9 February: 9:00-12:00

Content: This course is designed to give students an overview of the English spoken in Malta and the contact situation between English, Maltese and Italian. We will survey the sociolinguistic situation and previous studies on Maltese English phonology, morphology and syntax. Emphasis is also placed on the preparation of empirical studies to be carried out during the excursion, which will in all likelihood take place in late November or early December 2009. Please check regularly UnivS and notice boards on the first floor of U9 for relevant information. Participation in class is compulsory for students attending the excursion but, space permitting, the course will open to others as well. A reader will be made available before the beginning of term.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + seminar paper

First class: 20 October 2009

Functional Aspects of English Syntax (Schlüter), S, 2 SWS, 6 or 8 ECTS, Thu 12:00-14:00

Content: The syntax of a language is one of its most distinctive components and has kept busy countless linguists of very diverse backgrounds. In this seminar, students will be introduced to different aspects of the syntactic analysis of English sentences. Starting out from selected problems of English syntax as presented in Greenbaum & Quirk's student's grammar, we will explore the different types of units making up a sentence and the relations holding between them. Practical exercises will raise the participants' awareness of their own use of syntax and of syntax as an object of linguistic study. Some questions that will be answered are: How good are the grammatical rules proposed in school grammars? Do grammatical labels such as adjective, auxiliary, etc. define watertight categories? Is formal usage the only 'grammatically correct' one? In what way does the syntax of British English differ from that of American English? What role does the meaning of a sentence play in the choice of its syntactic structures? What other factors do syntactic choices depend on?

The course will also highlight some related topics such as potential syntactic universals, the contrastive study of English and German syntax, diachronic change in syntactic patterns, and the psycholinguistic processing of syntax.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

6 ECTS: regular active participation in class + worksheets + oral presentation + written exam

8 ECTS: regular active participation in class + worksheets + oral presentation + seminar paper (3.500-4.500 words)

First class: 22 October 2009

Research Methods in Language Variation and Change (Schlüter), S, 2 SWS, 6 or 8 ETCS; 6 November: 14:00-16:00; 13 November, 18 December, 8 January, 15 January, 29 January, 5 February, 12 February: 14:00-18:00.

Content: This course introduces students to the array of empirical research methods that linguists have at their disposal for studying variation and change in language use. It aims at enabling students to make an informed choice of a methodological approach for investigating a linguistic phenomenon that they are interested in. It will therefore be of particular use for (but not restricted to) students who are considering writing their degree theses (Zulassungsarbeiten, BA or MA theses) in English Linguistics. The research methods that will be discussed include:

- fieldwork and linguistic mapping
- methods of phonetic and phonological analysis
- corpus compilation, annotation and retrieval
- applications and problems of corpus analysis
- experimental settings
- the combination of multiple approaches
- computational analysis of empirical data

Students in this seminar will be expected to participate in a twofold project: On the one hand, groups of two or three students will be assigned chapters of a textbook project written by leading linguists in the field, which they will be asked to present, evaluate, contextualize and supplement in accordance with guidelines provided by the instructor (who is co-editor of the projected volume). On the other hand, they will be asked to carry out their own exemplary case study of a linguistic phenomenon of their choice and to document it in a format appropriate to be published on a website accompanying the textbook.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

6 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation of one of the chapters with handout

8 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation of one of the chapters with handout + draft webpage supplementing the chapter

First class: 6 November 2009

Zur Geographie englischer Familiennamen (Viereck), S, 2 SWS, 8 ECTS, Thu 8:30-10:00

Content: In 2007, the first of two volumes of *An Atlas of English Surnames* appeared, written by Stephanie Barker, Stefankai Spoerlein, Tobias Vetter and Wolfgang Viereck (XIII + 587 pp. Bamberger Beiträge zur Englischen Sprachwissenschaft Bd. 52. Frankfurt: Peter Lang). This seminar serves the purpose of preparing the second volume of this atlas. It is intended to cover fields of interest relating to English family names which could not be treated in the first volume. The best preparation for this seminar is to have a look at the first volume. The seminar is particularly addressed to students who are interested in continuing their study of English family names beyond their seminar papers to their final theses; and they will – as in the first volume – be rewarded with co-authorship in the publication. If you need further information, feel free to contact me by email: [wolfgang.viereck\(at\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:wolfgang.viereck@uni-bamberg.de)

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + seminar paper (4.500-6.000 words)

First class: 22 October 2009

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (Knappe), S, 2 SWS, 6 or 8 ECTS, 20 October: 10:30-12:00; 27 October, 10 November, 24 November, 8 December, 22 December, 19 January, 2 February: 9:00-12:00

Content: Towards the end of the 14th century Geoffrey Chaucer composed his famous *Canterbury Tales*, a dazzling variety of stories and styles told by fictional pilgrims on their way from London to Canterbury. Large parts of the collection are as fascinating and entertaining today as they were at Chaucer's time. We will look at the figures (including the 'pilgrim Chaucer') and their tales from the point of view of their literary tradition, but especially with regard to linguistic composition. By the end of the seminar you will have read one of the stories in the original Middle English (*The Miller's Tale*), which will enable you to investigate more of the original text yourself. While no knowledge of earlier stages of the English language are required for successful participation in this course, you should bring along both interest in the earlier stages of the English language and exploratory spirit.

The *Übung*, which accompanies the *Seminar* (Monday, 14:45-15:30) is designed to discuss project work and other assignments individually and/or in small groups. Individual arrangements will be made – also, if necessary, concerning the time of the *Übung*. Therefore clashes with other courses scheduled for the same time slot as the *Übung* can be avoided.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

6 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + written exam

8 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + seminar paper (3.500-4.500 words)

First class: 20 October 2009

English Linguistics Research Seminar (Krug), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 6 ECTS; Thu 18:00-20:00

Content: This seminar is designed for advanced students. One aim is to provide a forum for the preparation and discussion of projects such as BA theses, Master's theses, *Staatsarbeiten* and PhD projects. We will thus discuss empirical and methodological issues relevant to such studies. Secondly, there will be hands-on presentations of the new research facilities for English linguist(ic)s at Bamberg University, the focus being on the variety of newly acquired English text collections. A third goal is to discuss current trends in linguistics, which will involve discussion of recent and forthcoming publications as well as conference and book reports. Where appropriate, additional meetings with individual subgroups of the class will be offered.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode: Presentation and/or written work (depending on the number of ECTS-points)

First class: 22 October 2009

Language and Identity (Rosen), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Mon 8:00-10:00

Content: The language we use forms an important part of our sense of who we are and the relationship between language and identity has therefore always been a major area of sociolinguistic investigation. This seminar is designed to introduce students to basic concepts and principles concerning the links between language and identity. It will provide an overview of the role of language in the construction of national, regional, cultural and personal identity – thereby addressing questions such as: What is the nature of identity? How do our linguistic practices contribute to shaping our identities? How do we negotiate our membership in society and groups through language? After a brief introduction to concepts and definitions in sociolinguistic and identity research, we will examine (case) studies of speech communities from various parts of the English-speaking world, of different groups in society and of different interactional settings (e.g. the workplace). Practical analyses of linguistic data will help to demonstrate and illuminate the relevance of the issues discussed.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

2 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation

4 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + short assignment

First class: 19 October 2009

Varieties of English: Focus on Scotland (Schützler), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Tue 12:00-14:00

Content: The seminar is an introduction to the English language(s) as it (or they) developed in Scotland. This includes general discussions of the following:

- The history of the Scottish speech community: settlement, language contact, and the changing status and functions of Scots and English
- Scottish (Standard) English, Scots, and Highland English in present-day Scotland
- Characteristics of present-day Scottish English: pronunciation, grammar and lexicon
- Examples from literary Dialect and spoken language
- Some linguistic studies from the late twentieth century
- Some online-resources

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: Übung

Assessment method and exam mode:

2 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation

4 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + short assignment

First class: 20 October 2009

Corpus Linguistics (Medick), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Mon 18:00-20:00

Content: A corpus is a collection of texts used for linguistic analyses, usually stored in a computer readable database. Corpora can be used to test and even develop new theories about language.

This course will introduce students to basic theory and practice of corpus linguistics. We will find out what electronic text corpora are and how they are designed and implemented. The corpora available to English linguists in Bamberg as well as software programs for analysing these corpora will be introduced. A considerable part of the course will be devoted to hands-on experiments with corpus data. The use of corpus linguistics in English language teaching will also be discussed.

Since this is an introduction, prior experience in this area is not required but basic computer skills (Windows, Office) are necessary for working with analysis software like WordSmith and similar programs.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: Übung

Assessment method and exam mode:

2 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation

4 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + short assignment

First class: 19 October 2009

English in Asia (Hilbert), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Wed 8:30-10:00

Content: Where would you find a *stepney* (spare tyre) in a *dickey* (car boot), wear *full pants* (trousers), *half pants* (shorts) and *chaddis* (underpants), go to *kitty-parties* (meeting of women, for chatting) as a *timepass* (hobby), and later *intimate* (inform) your *would-be* (fiancé) about everything? Just *airdash* (travel by air) to India and find out... This seminar is concerned with the so-called "New Englishes" that have developed in colonial and postcolonial Asia from the 18th century on until today. We will focus on the varieties of English spoken in India, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines, but will also on occasion include some of the lesser known English varieties like the ones existing in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as the role of English as a foreign language in China or Japan. We will investigate to what extent English has been influenced by the other languages spoken in the territories (e.g. Hindi and several hundred other languages in India; Mandarin, Malay and Tamil in Singapore etc.), but also how it has been adapted to the life and culture of its speakers, including linguistic aspects such as accent, word meanings, the creation of new words, and sentence structure; and socio-cultural aspects such as the development of styles, matters of identity, and the use of the "New Englishes" in literature.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

2 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation

4 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + short assignment

First class: 21 October 2009

English in Africa (Beuter), Ü, 2 SWS, 2 or 4 ECTS; Tue 18:00-20:00

Content: *Cape to Cairo* – this ambitious slogan used to stand for British colonial aspirations on the "Black Continent". Though the wheels of history have turned otherwise, the English language remains a powerful legacy of colonial times all over Africa.

The seminar will focus on sociolinguistic aspects of so-called "New Englishes" in colonial and post-colonial Africa. After an introduction to select concepts and research methods in sociolinguistics, we will study varieties of English from South, West and East African settings and also have a look at the phenomena of pidgins and creoles. We will examine how African indigenous languages have influenced African Englishes with regard to phonological and prosodic features, morpho-syntactical structures and discourse patterns. Against the backdrop of the sociohistorical origins of English in Africa, the present day role of English in African societies will be investigated and issues of language policy and language planning including language in education are to be addressed, also pointing towards future developments.

Practical analyses of speech data taken from linguistic corpora, but also from films, literature and the like will help students further explore the matter of English in Africa as a broad field for linguistic research.

Registration: via the online registration system FlexNow!

Teaching method: seminar

Assessment method and exam mode:

2 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation

4 ECTS: regular active participation in class + oral presentation + short assignment

First class: 20 October 2009