

Information for first-semester students enrolled in the Master of Arts program in English Linguistics, winter term 2024/25

The following classes are open to all students enrolled in the Master of Arts English Linguistics (1-Fach) program.

In the MA-program English Linguistics, students acquire in-depth knowledge about the **structure and use of the English language** as well as the complex phenomena of **language variation found in English** and the models and theories used to explain them. In addition to this, they will learn to apply a **wide range of empirical methods** in the context of **hands-on research projects**.

Students can choose from **four different electives** to complement their studies in linguistics: Anglophone Literatures and Media; Natural Language Processing; Digital Humanities; Phonetics.

If you have any questions, please contact prof. Arndt-Lappe, prof. Hoffmann, and prof. Sand via maengling@uni-trier.de

**PROVISIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (WINTER TERM 2024/25)
COMPULSORY MODULES**

We provide this provisional information as a first orientation. Please enrol in PORTA for all your classes. In case you do not have access to PORTA or encounter difficulties, please contact the instructor(s) of the courses you selected via email. All instructors' contact details can be found on our website: anglistik.uni-trier.de. MA English Linguistics students can be certain that they will be assigned a place in all LING courses they need.

In your first semester, you are recommended to complete the following Modules: Module 1, Module 2, an Elective Module worth 10 CP.

For Module 1, please choose one linguistics seminar (marked LING) and one practical language course (marked LANG) from the lists below.

For Module 2, please choose one linguistics seminar (marked LING) from the list below, and the Study Project (marked LING 704).

Linguistics seminars (LING)

LING 701 *Language and Cognition*

Mondays, 14-16h, B111; Prof. Dr. Arndt-Lappe

In this seminar we will look at how language is processed in the mind(s) of language users, and how these processing mechanisms are reflected in the structure of language. In particular, we will consider so-called 'usage-based' theories of linguistics and the empirical evidence supporting such theories.

LING 701 *The Linguistics of Humour*

Tuesdays, 16-18h, B19; Prof. Dr. Hoffmann

In this seminar, we will be looking at how humour is realised linguistically, and how humour is employed in different contexts for different purposes.

LING 702 *English in the Caribbean*

Thursdays, 10-12h, P1; Prof. Dr. Sand

This class will look at the spread of English in the Caribbean, analysing various English-lexifier creoles and the creole continuum in countries like Jamaica. How do creoles and standard varieties coexist and influence each other? What does that mean for language use in different domains? These are some of the questions that will be addressed. The main focus will be on the analysis of different kinds of text, ranging from audio or video to literary texts.

LING 703 *Beowulf* (not eligible for Module 2)

Tuesdays, 10-12h, P14; Prof. Dr. Sand *Beowulf* is the oldest surviving English epic and the text itself is even older than the only surviving manuscript. In this class, we'll learn about Old English, Anglo-Saxon poetry and culture by doing close readings of key passages of the text, comparing it to archeological artefacts and looking at modern adaptations of the text.

Practical language courses (LANG)

LANG 701 *Culture War in the 90s*

Tuesdays, 8-10, B211, Carol Ebbert-Hübner, M.A.

LANG 701 *The November 2024 Elections*

Thursdays, 10-12, A12, Carol Ebbert-Hübner, M.A.

LANG 701 *Current Social Movement in the US*

Wednesdays, 12-14, P3, Sonia Paola Rodriguez Sagastuy, M.A.

Study Project (LING 704)

LING 704 *Study Project / Studienprojekt*

Fridays, 14-16h, Room?, Prof. Dr. Arndt-Lappe, Prof. Dr. Hoffmann

ELECTIVE MODULES

Please speak to one of the professors about the electives. There are three types of electives:

1. (Free) Elective Modules: Please see here: <https://www.uni-trier.de/en/studies/range-of-courses/free-electives>

2. Compulsory Elective Modules: Students of English Linguistics must choose one of the following focus areas, in which they complete modules worth at least 20CP. The focus areas are:

- Anglophone Literatures and Media
- Natural Language Processing
- Phonetics (language of teaching: German)
- Digital Humanities (language of teaching: German)

Please cf. the respective programs for their course offerings.

3. Preparatory Elective Module: only for students with gaps in empirical linguistics. Please choose one LING 201V class and one LING 501 seminar.

LING 201V *Introduction to Linguistic Studies 2*

Tuesdays, 10-12h, D34; M.A. Laura Witz

LING 201V *Introduction to Linguistic Studies 2*

Thursdays, 10-12h, B19; Prof. Dr. Hoffmann

Ling 501 *Second Language Acquisition*

Tuesdays, 14-16h, B19; M.A. Laura Witz

In this class we will learn how speakers acquire a second language. We will discuss the complex factors involved in second language acquisition and I hope to be able to show you that not everything in second language acquisition comes down to transfer from language A to language B. At the end of the semester we will conduct an empirical research project together as a class which means that in this class you will also learn basic skills for empirical research in linguistics as well as basic relevant aspects of data science and very basic descriptive statistics for linguists.

Ling 501 *Pidgins and Creoles*

Wednesdays, 10-12h, P2; Prof. Dr. Sand

This class will look at a variety of English-lexifier pidgins and creoles from different parts of the world as well as exploring their origins, specific socio-linguistic contexts, language policy or their uses in literary texts or education.

Ling 501 *Linguistic (Im)Politeness Theories*

Thursdays, 12-14h, E139; Dr. Kraft

In this class we will investigate how the linguistic phenomenon of (im)politeness is negotiated in varieties of the English language. We will study theoretical linguistic approaches to the topics and analyse a variety of examples from different contexts of language use.

Ling 501 *Formulaic Language*

Fridays, 10-12h, B19; Prof. Dr. Hoffmann

What are the basic units of language? Well, most people would probably think of words as one of these units - and when we make sentences, we string words together on the basis of the grammatical rules we know. But is this really how language (or rather: our brain) works? When we look at lots of language (e.g. in the form of electronic corpora), we see that people use the same sequences of words over and over again - sometimes with slight variations, but still. And given that the human brain likes efficiency, it makes sense to assume that these sequences are not compiled from individual words every single time we use them. Instead, they are most likely retrieved from memory as single chunks, even though these prefabricated units span across what are usually considered syntactic boundaries. These chunks are often subsumed under the heading "formulaic language". In this seminar, we will be looking at what kind of formulaic language there is, how to look for instances of formulaic language - and how to test the hypothesis that we are indeed dealing with stored units that are larger than words.

Module No	Module	Classes	Semester ¹	SWS	CP	Module Exam
1	Language Variation I	Language Practice “Study Skills” (2 SWS)	1	4	10	Term Paper
		LING 701 Special Topics in General Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 702 Special Topics in Applied Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 703 Language History and Change (2 SWS)				
2	Research Methods in Empirical Linguistics I	Practical “Study Project” (1 SWS)	1	3	10	Oral Exam (30 min.)
		LING 701 Special Topics in General Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 702 Applied Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 703 Language History and Change (2 SWS)				
EM	Elective Module	A choice of 10 CP from the Elective modules or from the free electives for Master's degree programs (cf. note 1) must be successfully completed.	1	---	10	---

3	Language Variation II	Language Practice "Culture Studies" (2 SWS)	2	4	10	Portfolio Exam
		LING 801 Special Topics in General Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 802 Special Topics in Applied Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 803 Language History and Change (2 SWS)				
4	Research Methods in Empirical Linguistics II	Practical "Statistics for Linguists" (2 SWS) LING 801 Special Topics in General Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 802 Special Topics in Applied Linguistics (2 SWS) OR LING 803 Language History and Change (2 SWS)	2	4	10	Term Paper
CEM	Compulsory Elective Module	10 CP out of a total of 20 CP must be earned in modules from the chosen focus within the Compulsory Elective Modules.	2	---	10	---
5	Applied Linguistics	Choose two classes out of the three listed below:	3	4	10	Term Paper

		LING 701 Special Topic in General Linguistics (2 SWS) LING 702 Special Topics in Applied Linguistics (2 SWS) LING 703 Language History and Change (2 SWS)				
6	Partical Module	No classes: 6 week, full-time academic or professional intership of your choice	3	0	10	Internship Report (not graded)
7	Master's Thesis	No classes	4	0	30	Master's thesis (80%) and oral exam (45 mins.) (20%)

¹ Recommended semester reflecting the recommended chronological order in which the classes should be taken

More information can be found on the following page:

<https://www.uni-trier.de/universitaet/fachbereiche-faecher/fachbereich-ii/faecher/anglistik/studium/degree-programmes/-/studiengaenge/master-of-arts-english-linguistics-1-fach>