

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema:	Survey of Language and Linguistics [AA-E1, AA-W, ENG-1, ASW-M3/4] – Kernzeit
Art der Veranstaltung:	Vorlesung
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-502
Zeit:	2st., Mi 16-18
Raum:	Phil D
Beginn:	19. Oktober 2011

Course description:

This lecture is conceived as a companion course to the Introduction to Linguistics. It lays the foundation for the scientific study of language by providing elementary background knowledge and surveying major theoretical, empirical and methodological issues in linguistics. It recapitulates the basic notions that students bring with them from their school days (and may have largely forgotten about) in order to get a grip on the description of language(s). Our focus will be on grammatical terminology, in particular word classes and the functions they perform in sentences. The starting point of the lecture course is what goes by the name of the “philosophy of science”. What does it mean for an approach to be scientific? How do scientists go about examining their object of study? We then apply these principles to linguistics and discuss the role of language and linguistics in the canon of scientific disciplines. Linguistics will be understood as a branch of semiotics. A survey will be given of the languages of the world and English in particular will be located with respect to these. A good deal of attention will be paid to linguistic methodology. The definition of linguistics as an empirical science throws the data problem into relief. What data types qualify as suitable for which purposes? How are data collected and analysed? The final part of the lecture course brings the English language into focus. How did it develop historically? What are the patterns of its regional variation? What is its status compared to other languages? Is it justified to regard it as a world language?

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di und Mi 18-19 Uhr (mit Anmeldung), Phil 101
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	Mi 24.8.11, 21.9.11, 12.10.11 jeweils 16-18 Uhr (mit Anmeldung), Phil 101