

53-514, SS 2018

Seminar II

Titel: Linguistics and its neighbouring disciplines

Dozent: Prof. Thomas Berg

[ENG-4, ENG-4a, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-WB]

2st. Do 16-18 Ü35-01054

Linguistics derives much of its interest from the fact that it links up with a multitude of other scientific disciplines, thereby bringing forth a large number of semi-independent fields of study. The overall aim of this course is to familiarize participants with the most important of these so-called hyphenated sciences. Contact will be made with psychology, neurology, medicine, sociology, history, geography, physics, biology, mathematics and perhaps philosophy. To illustrate, language as a social phenomenon is influenced by social factors such as age and status. Thus, the contact between linguistics and sociology gives rise to sociolinguistics, a field that has developed its own methods and that flourishes semi-independently from theoretical linguistics. In addition to sociolinguistics, we will be looking at psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, neurolinguistics, language disorders (patholinguistics), historical linguistics, dialectology, phonetics, quantitative linguistics and, if time allows, at the philosophy of language.

There will be no student reports in the course. Course credit may be obtained on the basis of either a written exam at the end of term or a term paper investigating one of the links between linguistics and another discipline in detail.

There is no textbook surveying the various connections between linguistics and the other areas of scientific enquiry. There is thus no specific reading to be recommended in preparation for this course (apart from introductions to the above-mentioned interfaces).

Requirements for full credit:

Regular attendance

Term paper or written exam