

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Modul:	Construction Grammar [ENG-4, ENG-4a, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, ENGAGE-M01a, ENGAGE-M02]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-511
Zeit:	2st. Di 14-16
Raum:	Ü35-01016
Beginn:	07.04.2020

Course description:

Over the past 20 years or so, a new theory of language has quite successfully established itself in the field. It downplays the central role of traditional units such as morphemes and phrases and accords all all-important role to a single type of unit termed "construction". It is accordingly called Construction Grammar. A construction is defined as a form-function (or meaning) pairing whose use is not fully predictable. For example, "summer day" would be regarded as a construction because the presence or absence of the possessive marker "-s" is not fully predictable (note the contrast between "autumn day" and "winter('s) day"). This theory excels in accommodating the many idiosyncracies we find in actual language use and succeeds in showing that a binary division into lexicon and grammar is downright untenable. At the same time, it seems to be rather unconstrained and therefore to be of the "anything goes" type.

Our primary task in this course will be to familiarize ourselves with the basic tenets of Construction Grammar and to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this theory. Please note that the reading of book chapters in preparation for individual meetings may be necessary.

Recommended literature:

- Bierwiazzonek, Boguslaw: *An introductory English grammar in constructions*. Czestochowa: Wydawnictwo, 2016.
- Goldberg, Adele: *Constructions: A Construction Grammar approach to argument structure*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.
- Hilpert, Martin: *Construction Grammar and its application to English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2014.

Sprechstunden im Semester:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste