Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Thema	Regularity and irregularity in language
	[ENG-4, ENG-4a, AA-V1a, AA-V1b, AA-
	V2a, AA-V2b, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9,
	LAA8, LAA11, ENGAGE-M01a, ENGAGE-
	M02, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-513
Zeit	2st., Mi 14–16
Raum	Ü35-01054
Beginn	ab 18.10.17

One of the greatest puzzles in the study of language is the ubiquity of irregularity. Generations of foreign language learners have been frustrated about exceptions no less than generations of linguists have been frustrated about their futile attempts at squeezing language into fully regular patterns. Moreover, it seems to lay people and professionals alike that irregularity is something that could (or should) be done away with. So why do we have it, and why do we have it in such quantity? We are beginning to find initial answers to these questions. This course will examine these answers in some detail and evaluate them. After a clarification of what is meant by regularity and irregularity, many phenomena from all levels of linguistic analysis will be discussed with a view to finding out whether irregularity is an unpredictable whim of language and the consequence of haphazard language change or alternatively, whether irregularity is every bit as functional as regularity. We will also consider a third option which regards irregularity as "collateral damage", i.e. as a side effect of powerful forces such as economy and perceptual contrast.

There are few books that specifically deal with the contrast between regularity and irregularity. Interested students may look at the following.

r, Andreas & Klaus-Michael Köpcke (eds.): *Regularität und Irregularität in Phonologie und Morphologie: Diachron, kontrastiv, typologisch.* Berlin, 2016.

, Frans: *Morphologische (Ir-)regularitäten. Aspekte der Wortstrukturtheorie. Tübingen*, 1981. Cornelia & Aina Urdze (eds.): *Morphologische Irregularität.* Bochum, 2008.

## **Course requirements:**

regular attendance oral presentation term paper

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	tba