Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Modul:	Distance in Language
	[ENG-4, ENG-4a, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9,
	LAA8, LAA11, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-514
Zeit:	2st. Do 16-18
Raum:	Ü35-01054
Beginn:	18.10.18

## **Course description:**

There are three ways in which the notion of distance in language may be understood—social, psychological and syntagmatic. Social distance is prototypically reflected in addressing and referring by using forms which express hierarchical or egalitarian relations. Psychological distance is reflected in the topics that interlocutors choose or avoid and the frankness and involvement with which these topics are discussed (among sundry other factors). This course focuses on the syntagmatic type of distance. It looks into the possibilities of two given units in the same planning frame of impacting on each other. In particular, it examines the effect of (linear or hierarchical) distance on the probability of one unit impinging on another. A related question is whether distance can also influence the kind of interaction between two given units. The more general issue here is the extent to which a language like English for example tolerates distance or whether interacting units have to be adjacent. To illustrate, consider Wells's celebrated example *the old men and women*, which is ambiguous between the reading [the old [men and women]] and the reading [[the old men] and women]. Obviously, distance is a crucial player in this game.

This course will take an in-depth look at distance-based phenomena at all relevant levels of analysis.

As is true of so many topics, there is no introductory textbook.

## Requirements (depending on the number of credit points):

- Regular attendance
- Oral presentation
- Term paper

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