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| <b>Veranstalter:</b>          | <b>Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg</b>   |
| <b>Thema:</b>                 | <b>Iconicity</b><br>[AA-V2, ENG-11, AA-W, AA-M1, AA-M3, AA-M9, AA-M10] |
| <b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b> | <b>Seminar II</b>  |
| <b>Veranstaltungsnummer:</b>  | <b>53-518</b>  |
| <b>Zeit:</b>                  | <b>2st., Di 16-18</b>  |
| <b>Raum:</b>                  | <b>Phil 1250</b>   |
| <b>Beginn:</b>                | <b>18. Oktober 2011</b>  |

**Course description:**

The structure of language is under the influence of two antagonistic forces relating meaning to form. Arbitrariness ensures an independence between form and meaning whereas iconicity establishes a link between the two. Over the past few decades, linguists have become increasingly aware of the essential role that iconicity plays in shaping language structure. In other words, iconicity has emerged as a powerful design principle of language.

The interesting question to ask is, to what extent is language arbitrary or iconic? We may assume that languages strike a balance between arbitrariness and iconicity and that a shift to either side would compromise the proper functioning of the system. The major objective of this course is to find this balance and to assess the explanatory power of iconicity. It will be seen that iconicity should not be relegated to marginal areas of language structure (such as onomatopoeia) but penetrates all major levels of analysis. Iconic effects can be observed at the phonological level (e.g. sound symbolism, expressiveness), the morphological level (e.g. the additive nature of derivation, the uncommonness of suppletion), the lexical level (e.g. onomatopoeia, interjections) and the syntactic level (e.g. word order as a reflection of temporal order in the non-linguistic world). We will also consider the role of iconicity in language acquisition and breakdown as well as in the evolution of language.

**Requirements:**

Regular attendance  
Oral report  
Term paper

**Recommended reading:**

- Haiman, John (ed.): *Iconicity in syntax*. Amsterdam. Benjamins, 1985.
- Simone, Raffaele (ed.): *Iconicity in language*. Amsterdam. Benjamins, 1995.
- Willems, Klaas & Ludovic De Cuypere (eds.): *Naturalness and iconicity in language*. Amsterdam. Benjamins, 2008.

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