

Grundkurs Linguistik

HHU WS 2023/2024

Patrick D. Elliott

October 4, 2023

1 Description

Linguistics is the scientific study of the human capacity for language. In this course, we'll explore a broad range of topics, reflecting the rich interdisciplinary nature of linguistics. Core topics include the study of sound patterns and articulation (phonology and phonetics), the fine structure of words and sentences (morphology and syntax), as well as word/sentence meaning and how we use language to communicate with one another (semantics and pragmatics). Additional topics covered will include how children acquire language, how language changes over time, and, towards the end of the semester, recent advances in the domains of animal communication, as well as language in the context of artificial intelligence.

2 Requirements

This course is intended as a first introduction to linguistics, aimed at students with no prior background.

3 Team

- **Instructor:** Dr. Patrick D. Elliott patrick.elliott@hhu.de; <https://patrickdelliott.com>
- **Secretary:** Tim Marton tim.marton@phil.hhu.de
- **Teaching assistants:**
 - Cara Sophie Allmann Cara.Allmann@hhu.de
 - Franc Andrea frand103@uni-duesseldorf.de

- Mara-Viktoria Kurth `makur104@hhu.de`
- Mogens Mastracchio `brmas100@hhu.de`
- Severin Sieber `sesie102@uni-duesseldorf.de`
- Jan Stockschlaeger `jasto112@uni-duesseldorf.de`
- Isabella Lousado de Paula `isabella.lousado.de.paula@hhu.de`

4 Time and place

- Class takes place on **Thursday** at 14:30-16:00.
- Class takes place in **2321.HS 3H (Z 388)**

5 Tutorials

There are a number of tutorial slots that you are welcome to register for. The intent of the tutorials is to provide supplementary activities, as well as venues for you to ask questions about the weekly homeworks.

1. Monday 8:30-10:00 (2321.04.23 (Z 34))
2. Monday 16:30-18:00 (2321.U1.72 (Z 34))
3. Tuesday 8:30-10:00 (2321.U1.72 (Z 34))
4. Tuesday 16:30-18:00 (2321.U1.48 (Z 88))
5. Wednesday 8:30-10:00 (2321.U1.48 (Z 88))
6. Wednesday 16:30-18:00 (2302.U1.21 (Z 55))

6 Language of instruction

The lectures, as well as the readings for this class will be in **English**.

7 Leistungsnachweis

7.1 BN requirements

- Submit solutions to the weekly(-ish) homework assignments.
 - The passing grade is 50% of the available points.
 - You can skip one homework. If you submit all homeworks, the lowest scoring homework will be dropped

7.2 AP requirements

- Final exam.

8 Comms

8.1 Rocketchat

Join the rocketchat channel using the following link: <https://rocketchat.hhu.de/invite/awaxuf>. Note that this is **obligatory**; in an attempt to keep things simple, I'll use this as the main channel of communication for the class, including announcements etc.

8.2 Moodle

Course material will be posted on the class moodle; please register yourself: <https://moodle.phil.hhu.de/course/view.php?id=1551>

8.3 Office hours

I hold office hours at 3-4pm on Wednesdays. You can find me in building 23.21, room 04.73. Please let me know in advance the time that you plan on dropping by, so that I can stagger appointments.

8.4 Email

For any questions regarding the class, please post in rocketchat, so that others can benefit from the response. For any private queries, you can email me at patrick.elliott@hhu.edu.

9 Tentative schedule

The following is subject to change.

date	class
Oct 12	Human language and language science
Oct 19	Morphology i
Oct 26	Morphology ii
Nov 2	Phonetics
Nov 9	Phonology
Nov 16	Syntax
Nov 23	Semantics
Nov 30	Pragmatics
Dec 7	Language variation and change
Dec 14	Child language acquisition
Dec 21	Adult language learning
	WINTER BREAK
Jan 11	NO CLASS
Jan 18	Psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics
Jan 25	Language change
Feb 1	Animal communication
Feb 8	Language and AI

- Exam details TBA.

10 Resources

Many of the readings will be drawn from the open-access textbook *Essentials of linguistics*. You can find it here: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics2/>