# **English Language and Applied Linguistics**

# **Module Descriptions 2024/25**

# **Level I (i.e. 2nd Yr.) and Level H (i.e. Final Year) Modules**

Please be aware that all modules are subject to availability.

**The modules listed in this handbook explore theoretical and practical concepts related to English Language study. They are not suitable for students wishing to develop their own proficiency in English Language writing or comprehension and should only be taken by students who already have a sophisticated understanding of the English Language.**

Please note that at the time this document has been prepared (October 2024) the following information is provisional, and there may be minor changes between now and the beginning of 2024/25 academic year.

**Please note: Forms of assessment are currently undergoing review for 2024/25, and as a result the assessment information listed within this handbook may be subject to change.**

# **SEMESTER 2 LI MODULES**

## **Data Skills for the Digital World**

MODULE CODE: 39274

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Data Analysis project

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module introduces students to quantitative, data-oriented methods that are increasingly common in the study of language and the humanities, with an emphasis on the development of practical skills for students’ future work at university and beyond. The module focuses on introducing data analysis and statistics in a way that is accessible to language and humanities students, and on getting students underway with analysis of their own data. Students will be introduced to the statistical programming environment “R”, which is widely used in linguistics and other scientific fields. In both workshops and seminars, students will gain experience working with different kinds of data in R, and will be given the opportunity to collect their own data and create digital materials such as blogs or online dashboards for effective “data storytelling”. Students will learn how to create online content using reproducible workflows, documenting their work at each stage of data collection, analysis, and presentation.

## **Psycholinguistics**

MODULE CODE: 27523

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module looks at how language is represented and processed in the human mind. We examine experimental evidence and theoretical models of the different levels of language to understand topics such as: how we access words and concepts; how we process words visually and auditorily; how we understand complex syntactic structures; how we plan and produce spoken language; and how we use and understand figurative language. The module focuses on an objective, data driven approach where carefully designed language experiments are at the heart of our understanding. To support this, we will also spend time considering methodology and aspects of experimental design that help us to investigate language processing in an empirical way, and you will be asked to take part in a series of language experiments to help develop your understanding of the different approaches that can be utilised.

## **Sociolinguistics**

MODULE CODE: 26680

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module explores the relationship between language and society, examining how variation in sound, syntax, morphology and lexis distribute across different aspects of society – for example, the correlation between the use of particular linguistic forms and social class groups, genders, age groups and geographical areas. The module considers the associations that develop between aspects of a speaker's identity and different linguistic forms, the role of prestige (overt and covert), stigmatization and the significance of one's social networks and communities, and how these facets of variation lead to large-scale changes in the English language.

## **Stylistics**

MODULE CODE: 39769

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x essay

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

**Description**

This module introduces stylistics as an approach to the study of literary and other creative texts. Stylistics focuses in close detail on language in order to ask questions about how those texts work and what it is that makes them distinctive or effective. The module explores a wide range of texts – poems, novels, plays, advertising, television – and encourages students to make use of a set of stylistic tools to help understand the workings of those texts. For example, by paying attention to word choice, we might see how an author encourages readers to feel that they are ‘seeing’ the world from a particular character’s point of view. Or, by paying attention to conversational turn-taking patterns, we might come to understand how viewers of a police drama get the impression that an interaction is not going well for the suspect. In short, the module aims to equip students with a set of analytical tools that they can use to make sense of texts and their meanings.

# **SEMESTER 2 LH MODULES**

## **Animal Communication and Language Evolution**

MODULE CODE: 32240

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Essay

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

In this module, we will examine what is currently known about animal communication and the evolution of human language. We will learn about the cognitive, biological, and structural aspects of language through comparison with various animal communication systems, spanning whales, birds, frogs, insects, primates and ancestral humans. This comparison will identify the aspects of language that humans share with other animals and those that make it special. We will also learn about current theories of the biological and cultural evolution of language. Students will have the chance to examine language from an inter-disciplinary perspective that includes biology, evolutionary theory, experimental and comparative psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and semiotics.

## **Language Change**

MODULE CODE: 29697

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 2x Essays

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

In this module, students will gain a deeper understanding of how and why languages change and how historical language research is conducted. We explore the development of recent as well as historical changes to the English language, occurring throughout the language system: grammar, morphology, word meaning, and phonology. We consider how and why innovations take place; the relationship between language change and language variation; and the spread of change throughout the speech community. We discuss the difficulties and limitations of historical language research. This includes an examination of the use of electronic corpora as a tool for investigating language change and the growing research field of historical sociolinguistics.

## **Language and the Mind**

MODULE CODE: 26649

CREDIT VALUE: 20

ASSESSMENT METHOD: 1x Research Project

SEMESTER: 2 (Spring term only)

***LH ELAL modules only available to students able to demonstrate a comprehensive background in studying Linguistics.***

**Description**

This module explores the emerging discipline of Cognitive Linguistics – a modern and innovative approach to the study of language, which focuses on the ways in which linguistic phenomena are underpinned by more general cognitive processes, as well as embodied experiences in the natural world. The module will introduce key concepts in Cognitive Linguistics such as categorisation and construal, embodied cognition and metaphor, and will consider how these topics influence the ways in which we communicate and interact with the world. Students will use published research in Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics to help understand the topics covered and the ways in which these topics can be explored. They will conduct their own investigation into one of the topics discussed in the module.