

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 1: Pragmatics (2AN1131)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Dr. Dorota Smyk-Bhattacharjee

Objectifs:

The aim of this seminar is to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive account of central topics in the fascinating field of pragmatics and to introduce students to the latest research and research methodologies in this field.

Contenu:

Pragmatics is interested in how language works in communicative and social interaction. It helps us answer questions such as the following:
 - Why does "It's hot in here" sometimes mean "Please open the window", and other times mean "I like this room" and even other times mean "Let's go somewhere else"?

- How do we manage to understand each other if we do not always explicitly say what we mean?
- Why is it sometimes polite to use formal language (i.e., "Excuse me, I am sorry to bother you but would you, by any chance,...", etc.) and other times offensive?
- Why do you have to say so much less when talking to a friend than to somebody new?

These and many other questions will be addressed in our "Pragmatics" seminar. Rather than examining language as an abstract system, the focus in this course will be on language in use. We will read and discuss a selection of influential studies in the field and get a hands-on experience by applying some of the tools and methods learned in a small-scale research of our own. Some of the topics we will be concerned with include different levels of meaning, (im)politeness, pragmatic markers, emotional deixis, vagueness and violence in language, as well as intercultural aspects of language use.

Forme de l'évaluation:

- Regular reading assignments and participation in class discussions and activities (20%)
- Preparation of a research project (BA students: group project, MA students: individual project) (40%)
- A final test (40%)

In order to pass the course as a whole, both the project assignment and the final exam need to be passable. Failure in either the project assignment or the final exam will incur a rattrapage of a longer term paper (approx. 6,000 words, 100%).

Documentation:

Reading material for the sessions, and additional course information will be made available on Moodle.

Pré-requis:

Students need to have taken an introduction to linguistics.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Séminaire