

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- [www.unine.ch/lettres](http://www.unine.ch/lettres)

### Seminar 1: Language, Film and Television: The Pragmatics of Telecinematic Discourse (2AN1142)

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

Thomas C. Messerli (Universität Basel)

#### Contenu

To explore the language of film and television as linguistic data and to introduce/revise key concepts of linguistic pragmatics.

In this BA-Seminar, we will explore the language of film and television as data for linguistic pragmatic inquiry. Understanding pragmatics in the broad sense of the European tradition, we will find out how we as linguists can understand such linguistic examples as film and television dialogues, subtitles and comments written while watching as situated language use. We think about the participation structures and communicative settings of fictional interaction onscreen and of non-fictional interaction between producers and viewers, mediated through the film/television text. We understand the sum of these practices as Telecinematic Discourse (TCD). Together, we will observe the specifics of TCD – including the different levels on which communication occurs and the multimodal context of cameras, gestures, facial expressions, etc. – but also approach it as an example of language in use more generally. This will allow us to revisit core concepts of linguistics and linguistic pragmatics, building on the course participants' pre-existing knowledge.

#### Forme de l'évaluation

Evaluation in this seminar consists of three pillars.

First, students need to prepare a text for each week and respond to two to three reading questions per week. As per the instructions given at the beginning of term, these responses will have to be handed in in writing in some weeks or serve to inform relevant spoken contributions in other weeks (40% of the final grade).

Second, students will be part of an "expert group" (groups will be 2–5 students, depending on class size). Each expert group will have to prepare a handout for one of the seminar sessions (before the session), serve as experts with excellent knowledge of the text during the session, and provide minutes of the key discussion points (after the session) (40%).

Finally, regular participation in class discussions as well as in online segments of the course is a requirement (20% of the final grade).

The course is intended for BA students. MA students who would like to participate and earn credits are required to complete an additional written assignment of about 10 pages (4,000) words on an assigned topic.

#### Documentation

The reading for the course will be made available on Moodle. The link for the weekly Webex sessions is also available on Moodle.

#### Pré-requis

Students must have taken an introductory linguistics class. English language skills are necessary.

#### Forme de l'enseignement

This seminar will require active student participation. This includes spoken contributions during synchronous teaching and written contributions (e.g. exercises, comments) in asynchronous session parts. At least some of the seminar sessions will take place online.

#### Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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- Interpret meaning in context (e.g. aspects of Telecinematic Discourse based on levels/layers of communication and context)
- Describe particularities of text genres (e.g. film dialogue) in terms of their communicative settings/participation structures
- Define core elements of a linguistic subfield (Pragmatics)
- Summarize speech events in terms of performativity and other core pragmatic concepts such as implicature/explicature, relevance, etc.
- Apply linguistic knowledge to (naturally-occurring) data
- Analyse selected data excerpts (of TCD), assess them (from a pragmatic perspective), and present relevant findings to peers

#### **Compétences transférables**

- Compare contexts and situations of different, but related communicative practices
- Formulate expert observations as part of short online assignments
- Present linguistic findings based on the analysis of authentic data
- Apply theoretical concepts (Pragmatics) to empirical data (film, television, subtitles)