

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

Seminar 1: English Words (2AN1122)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	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 main aim of this seminar is to introduce students to the study of the English lexicon and to familiarize them with the tools and methods used in lexical analysis.

Upon completion of the course students should:

- have acquired a good understanding of the structure, origin and the use of lexical items in the English language;
- be able to compile and use datasets in order to investigate lexical use in various texts (from print material to social media contexts) and from various perspectives (present-day as well as historical);
- have developed the ability to conduct and present small-scale research.

Contenu:

How many words are there in the English language? Well, it's impossible to count the number of words in a language because it's so hard to decide what actually counts as a word. Is book one word, or two (a noun meaning a written or printed work', and a verb meaning 'to reserve in advance')? If we count it as two, then do we count inflections separately too (e.g. books = plural noun, books = present tense of the verb). Is bookworm a word, or just two other words joined together? Is book club really two words, since it might also be written as bookclub?

In this course we will cover a broad range of topics from structural questions to psycholinguistic issues. We will start by introducing the methods of morphological analysis. Next, we will discuss the relationship of morphology to other linguistic subfields and see how the different aspects of grammar interact to make language work. We will also look at the way vocabulary in the language changes and expands. We will investigate examples of lost words, borrowings and the lexicon characteristic of different generations. Finally, we will see how lexical knowledge is represented in the human mind and how it is used in language processing.

Forme de l'évaluation:

- Regular reading assignments and participation in class discussions (10%)
- An oral presentation and critical analysis of the of research article (30%)
- A final exam (60%)
- MA students who would like to participate and earn credits are required to additionally submit an individual research paper of about 3,000 words.

[Failure will incur a rattrapage of a longer term paper (approx. 5,000 words, 100%).]

Documentation:

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

Pré-requis:

Participants need to have completed the Introduction to English Linguistics.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Séminaire: group discussions, presentations

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