

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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### Seminar: Construction Grammar (2AN2080)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>

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

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante:

Martin Hilpert

#### Objectifs:

In this class, master students will learn how to conduct a psycholinguistic experiment.

#### Contenu:

What do speakers of English know in order to produce utterances that other speakers will understand? Construction Grammar aims to explain how knowledge of language is organized in speakers' minds. The central and radical claim of Construction Grammar is that linguistic knowledge can be fully described as knowledge of constructions, which are defined as symbolic units that connect a linguistic form with meaning. The implications of this claim are far-reaching: In Construction Grammar, not only lexical items, but also syntactic patterns are seen as symbolic, meaningful units. Instead of being meaningless structural templates, syntactic patterns actively contribute to the overall meaning of an utterance. Knowledge of language is thus thought of as a vast repository of interrelated symbolic units, and nothing else in addition. This seminar will flesh out this idea and familiarize students with the central concepts of Construction Grammar, as applied to English constructions. In the process, we will discuss how the theory of Construction Grammar relates to the issues of language processing, language acquisition, and language variation and change.

#### Forme de l'évaluation:

Three different tasks are being evaluated in this seminar.

First, there are obligatory weekly reading assignments. Each week, students will read a text and complete an online quiz (20% of the final grade).

Second, the class requires active participation: be prepared, be present, and contribute to discussions and classroom work (20% of the final grade).

Third, you will carry out an independent research project at the end of the class. This project involves choosing a construction that you want to analyze, retrieving and analyzing data, and writing up the results (60% of the final grade).

Rattrapage: Failure to reach 60% of all possible credit points will incur a rattrapage of an essay of about 15 pages (6,000 words) on an assigned topic.

#### Documentation:

There is a course book that students are asked to acquire :

Hilpert, Martin. 2014. Construction Grammar and its Application to English. Edinburgh : Edinburgh University Press.

Other readings will be distributed via Claroline.

#### Forme de l'enseignement:

This seminar will require active student participation during discussions and student presentations. Attendance is mandatory.