

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

Seminar 1: Human language and animal communication (2AN1136)

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 Automne

Equipe enseignante

Martin Hilpert

Objectifs

The main goal of this course is to make students aware of the differences between human language and animal communication systems.

Contenu

Can animals talk? It is clear that many different species of animals can successfully communicate, but how is this communication similar to human language? This course takes a close look at the major differences between human language and animal communication systems. We will discuss how communication is not the same as language; the modalities of animal communication systems vs. the modalities of human language; the kinds of meanings that can be communicated by humans and non-human species; and the structural traits of language and animal communication systems.

Forme de l'évaluation

Four different tasks are being evaluated in this seminar.

First, there are obligatory weekly homework assignments. There will be weekly readings and online quizzes to accompany those readings, which we will discuss in class (20% of the final grade).

Second, we will form groups of 3-4 students. Each group will be responsible for presenting a published research study that will be presented in a poster session at the end of the course (20% of the final grade).

Third, oral participation in class discussions is a requirement (20% of the final grade).

Finally, a written exam at the end of the semester accounts for the remaining 40% 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.

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

Readings and other materials will be distributed via 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 during discussions and student presentations.

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