

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

Seminar 1: Linguistics: Human Language and Animal Communication (2AN1136)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier B A - sciences du langage	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Martin Hilpert

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.

The main goal of this course is to familiarize students with the differences between human language and animal communication systems. What characteristics can be observed in human language? What cognitive and social capacities underlie the ability to use language? How do these capacities work, and to what extent are they present in non-human species?

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 (10% of the final grade).

Third, oral participation in class discussions is a requirement (10% of the final grade).

Finally, a written take-home exam at the end of the semester accounts for the remaining 60% 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.

Modalités de rattrapage

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. The essay has to be handed in before the start of the new semester.

Documentation

Readings and other materials will be distributed via Moodle.

Pré-requis

Introduction to English Linguistics

Forme de l'enseignement

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This seminar will require active student participation during discussions and student presentations. All classes will be streamed and recorded.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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

- Présenter les idées thématiques dans la recherche à un public spécialisé et non spécialisé
- Extraire les informations pertinentes de textes complexes sur les thèmes linguistiques
- Identifier les fondements des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Développer une réflexion critique sur des idées reçues concernant les bases des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Expliquer les modèles théoriques liés au domaine d'analyse donné

Compétences transférables

- Développer une argumentation avec un esprit critique
- Présenter des idées complexes avec clarté et précision