Linguistics (research)

VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen - M Linguistics (research) - 2016-2017

This two-year programme trains you as a researcher in theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics, applied language and communication studies or in linguistic engineering. The programme contains a set of core courses in these areas which all students follow, but at the same time it allows you to specialize in one of the main research themes of the Department of Language and Communication, namely Language, Cognition and Communication, Language Acquisition, Language Documentation and Computational Lexicology and Terminology . The researchers working within these departmental themes are all affiliated to interfaculty research institutes within the VU. As a result, a lot of attention is paid to the relations between linguistics, the cognitive sciences, anthropology, communication theory, and education. There is also a strong emphasis on learning how to use various methods of linguistic research (corpus-based research, fieldwork, native speaker intuitions, experiments, and linguistic modelling). The Computational Lexicology and Terminology Lab (CLTL http://wordpress.let.vupr.nl/), an ambitious international research team has worked out a specialization in Linguistic Engineering, as a variant of the standard programme (Linguistics).

Programme overview

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Research Master Linguistics

This two-year programme trains you as a researcher in theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics, applied language and communication studies or in linguistic engineering. The programme contains a set of core courses in these areas which all students follow, but at the same time it allows you to specialize in one of the main research themes of the Department of Language and Communication, namely Language, Cognition and Communication, Language Acquisition, Language Documentation and Computational Lexicology and Terminology . The researchers working within these departmental themes are all affiliated to interfaculty research institutes within the VU. As a result, a lot of attention is paid to the relations between linguistics, the cognitive sciences, anthropology, communication theory, and education. There is also a strong emphasis on learning how to use various methods of linguistic research (corpus-based research, fieldwork, native speaker intuitions, experiments, and linguistic modelling). The Computational Lexicology and Terminology Lab (CLTL http://wordpress.let.vupr.nl/), an ambitious international research team has worked out a specialization in Linguistic Engineering, as a variant of the standard programme (Linguistics).

Programme Linguistics

First year:
• Core Course Linguistic Research (9 ects)
• A tutorial of your choice (9 ects)
• Four electives of your choice (27 ects)
• Term paper (9 ects)
• Research Design 1 (6 ects)

Second year:
• Core Course General Linguistics (9 ects)
• One tutorial of your choice (9 ects)
• One elective of your choice (6 ects)
• Research Design 2 (6 ects)
• Master's thesis (30 ects)

Programme Linguistic Engineering

First year:
• Core Course Linguistic Research (9 ects)
• Computational Lexicon (6 ects)
• Tutorial Python for linguists (9 ects)
• Tutorial Natural Language Processing Toolkits (9 ects)
• Two electives of your choice (12 ects)
• Term paper on Linguistic Engineering (9 ects)
• Research Design 1 (6 ects)

Second year:
• Core Course General Linguistics (9 ects)
• Tutorial: Scientific Experiments in Linguistic Engineering (9 ects; not offered in 2015-16)
• One elective of your choice (6 ects)
• Research Design 2 (6 ects)
• Master's thesis (30 ects)

All students have to follow courses for at least 10 ec at one of the
Research Schools.

Programme components:

- Research Master Linguistics Electives
- Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Forensic Linguistics/ Language and the Law
- Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistic Engineering
- Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistics

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Core Course Language Use		9.0	L_AAMPLIN006
Core Course Linguistic Research: Research Projects and Theories	Period 1	9.0	L_AAMPLIN009
Research Master Thesis Linguistics	Ac. Year (September)	30.0	L_WAMPLINSCR
Seminar Research Design 1	Period 4	6.0	L_AAMPALG001
Seminar Research Design 2	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMPALG002

Research Master Linguistics Electives

Choose Electives worth 33 credits (Specialization Linguistics), 12
credits (Specialization Linguistic Engineering) or 6 credits
(Specialization Forensic Linguistics/Language and the Law).

You will choose your optional course from all the Master's courses (on
linguistic topics, and English taught!) that the Faculty of Humanities
of VU University Amsterdam offers. You base this choice on your own
interests and the specialty that you wish to develop. Once you've made
your choice, you ask permission from the Examination Board Graduate
School. The Board discusses the coherence of these courses, especially
in the perspective of your research interests.
These courses include topics such as: phonology, syntax, semantics and
pragmatics, textual analysis, anthropological linguistics,
psycholinguistics, language variation, history of linguistics, language
acquisition, lexicography, computer linguistics and sociolinguistics. If
you wish to take a specific Master's course which is not taught at VU
Amsterdam's Faculty of Humanities, you can take this course elsewhere
(at another faculty or even at another university), provided that you
obtain permission from the Examination Board Graduate School.
A list of optional courses are shown (not exclusive).

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students	Period 2	3.0	L_ETMAALG002

Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students	Period 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG001
Anthropological Linguistics: an overview	Period 5	6.0	L_TAMATWS015
Describing Morphosyntax	Period 2	6.0	L_TAMATWS014
English Text Editing MA	Period 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG004
Genre Design	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMATEC003
Genre Research	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMATEC004

Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Forensic Linguistics/ Language and the Law

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Forensic Linguistics 1: Why the Law Needs Language and Linguistics	Period 1	6.0	L_NCMPLIN001
Forensic Linguistics 2: Methods of Authorship Analysis	Period 5+6	6.0	L_AAMPLIN016
Forensic Linguistics Term Paper	Period 5+6	9.0	L_NCMPLIN002
Natural Language Processing Toolkits	Period 4	9.0	L_AAMPLIN015
Python Programming for Text Analysis	Period 2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN017

Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistic Engineering

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Computational Lexicon	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMPLIN013
Linguistics Term Paper	Period 5+6	9.0	L_AAMPLIN008
Machine Learning	Period 2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN019
Natural Language Processing Toolkits	Period 4	9.0	L_AAMPLIN015
Python Programming for Text Analysis	Period 2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN017
Subjectivity Mining	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMPLIN018

Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistics

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Linguistics Term Paper	Period 5+6	9.0	L_AAMPLIN008
Linguistics Tutorial 1	Period 1+2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN002
Linguistics Tutorial 2	Period 1+2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN003

Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG002 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	3.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Examinator	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching staff	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
After successfully completing this course you will be able to write an
academic text in English at the C1 level of the Common European
Framework of Reference [CEFR] both in terms of relevant communicative
competence and grammatical accuracy and vocabulary control; you will be
able to spot the major coherence problems in the drafts of your own and
other people's texts, and edit the text to improve coherence; you will
also have a clear sense of where your English is strong and of what
areas you can work on to develop your expressive potential.

Course content
This course focuses on resolving linguistic issues that individual
students still have in their English, and on further refining academic
style and textual coherence. On the one hand the idea is to resolve
issues that participants still have with their English, and on the other
hand it is about learning to use structures that can make one's writing
more 'interesting'.

Form of tuition
2 seminars of 2 hrs each week; one week of individual appointments.

Type of assessment
Takehome editing assignments (30%); edited versions of a text you've
written before this course (70%); an analysis of and report on the weak
areas in one's own English (required, no grade).

Course reading
Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). Effective Writing in English. 2nd
edition. Bussum: Coutinho. There will also be separate materials posted
on Blackboard.

Entry requirements
This course is only open to master students who already have experience
in writing academic texts in English.

Target group
Master and research master students who are relatively experienced
writers and who wish to further develop the quality of their written
academic English.

Remarks
The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two sessions
you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Examinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Teaching staff	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
After successfully completing this course you will be able to write a
well-structured English text in a formal style about a subject related
to your own study, free of serious lexical and grammatical error which
would have an adverse effect on the readability of the text. In terms of
the Common European Framework of Reference you will have achieved at
least level B2 for linguistic accuracy and B2/C1 for relevant
communicative competence.

Course content
This course involves (a) a practical introduction to basic aspects of
the grammar of contemporary English, focusing on the problems that
students typically have when writing formal English, (b) a remedial
treatment of the macrostructures of academic texts in different
disciplines, and (c) help in getting to grips with the basic problems
involved in writing good, formal English (e.g. differences between
English and other languages, the essentials of English punctuation,
formal style).

Form of tuition
2 hrs lecture per week; 2 hrs seminar per week

Type of assessment
Early diagnostic writing assignment during the course; final online
grammar test plus academic paper of 2000 words. The final mark is based
on the grammar test and the academic paper, both of which need to have a
pass mark.

Course reading
Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). Effective Writing in English. 2nd
edition. Bussum: Coutinho.
Foley, M. & D. Hall (2003). Longman Advanced Learners' Grammar: A self
study & practice book with answers. Longman/Pearson.

Entry requirements
Registration as a master student

Target group
For Dutch and international students who feel insecure about their
English

Remarks
The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two weeks
you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Anthropological Linguistics: an overview

Course code	L_TAMATWS015 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
Knowlegde of central notions and methods of anthropological linguistics.
Ability to observe and analyse linguistic phenomena from the perspective
of anthropological linguistics. Critical reflection on views regarding
the relationship between language and culture. The student is able to
report in a clear manner on results of his or her own anthropological
linguistic research. The student is able to interact critically with
literature in the field of anthropological linguistics.

Course content
The following topics are discussed. Methods and basic notions of
anthropological linguistics, orality and literacy, kinship terminology,
counting and numeral systems, language and taboo, taxonomies and
partonomies, the linguistic construction of personhood, language and
gender.

Form of tuition
Seminar. Interactive lectures (2 hours a week)

Type of assessment
Written exam on W.A. Foley. Anthropological Linguistics. An introduction
(Blackwell 1997) or a short essay on one of the topics discussed during
the course.

Course reading
W.A. Foley. Anthropological Linguistics. An introduction (Blackwell 1997)

Recommended background knowledge
BA in Humanities or Social Sciences

Target group
Master's students of Linguistics, Master's students of Research Master Linguistics, Research Master students Theology (track Bible Translation); Master and Research Master's students Anthropology.

Computational Lexicon

Course code	L_AAMPLIN013 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
Knowledge of computational lexical resources, esp. for English and Dutch; knowledge of the lexicographical content, the structure and the potential uses. Ability to use the resources in practice and to make critical comparisons. The student is able to evaluate and compare the resources.

Course content
This course is a thorough introduction to the computational lexicon. Students learn about the challenges and solutions of representing lexical knowledge for computational applications. We discuss the most widely used digital lexicons, their applications in computational linguistics and the relevant linguistic key concepts.
Discussing computational lexicons provides a good occasion to discuss some central linguistic notions like polysemy, semantic relations and case grammar. Students in Linguistic Engineering will have different backgrounds and in this course we will explore the entry level of students and work on important gaps in the field of linguistics. For students with a firm linguistic background, this course may be the first occasion to have a look at some practical engineering. We will ask some colleagues from the lab to discuss their work.
This course focusses on the lexicon as a key component in the symbolic analysis of natural language. Central in the course are the two main digital lexicons of this moment, WordNet and FrameNet, but other lexicons like VerbNet will also be discussed. In addition, we will study the Dutch Cornetto lexicon, which is a combination of the Referentie Bestand Nederlands (RBN, a more traditional set up digital lexicon) and the Dutch WordNet. We discuss the theoretical background and motivation of the lexicons, their structure, interesting applications in research projects and of course we also have an open eye for the shortcomings of

the lexicons.
In week 5, the focus is on ontologies, providing a means to link the meaning of words to the world. In week 6 we apply the newly acquired knowledge of the lexicon in a practical engineering setting. In week 7 and 8 students write a paper of about 10 pages as a final assignment.

Form of tuition
Interactive lectures, practica

Type of assessment
Assignments (50%) and a written exam (50%), Both results 5.5 or higher

Course reading
Will be posted on Blackboard

Target group
Research Master Linguistics

Core Course Language Use

Course code	L_AAMPLIN006 ()
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Examinator	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching staff	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Remarks
This course alternates on a yearly basis with the other Linguistics core-module 'Linguistic Research'. The course will not be taught in 2016-2017.

Core Course Linguistic Research: Research Projects and Theories

Course code	L_AAMPLIN009 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet, prof. dr. P.T.J.M. Vossen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
Acquiring knowledge and understanding of different linguistic theories in practice, by conducting (computational) linguistic research in an

academic research group, knowledge and understanding of some research
projects, hands-on experience and elementary skills in working on
research projects, applying knowledge of linguistics.
Students acquire skills in reporting on their work in the Lab.

Course content
Welcome to the Lab. What better way is there to learn about research in
linguistics and the validity of linguistic theories by studying
linguistic concepts and principles in real language data such as news,
tweets, blogs, email, together with the researchers that do this every
day? It is linguistics at work and research at work.
Students study different research projects that are running at the CLTL
research group, interview the researchers, read background literature
and write a report. You will learn about exciting international projects
that are at the frontier of science. Check www.cltl.nl for projects.

Form of tuition
lectures and assignments at the lab.

Type of assessment
grading is on the results of the research projects work and reports on
the work in the lab.

Course reading
will be announced at Blackboard

Entry requirements
none

Target group
Research masters Linguistics

Remarks
This course alternates on a yearly basis with the other Linguistics
core-module 'Language Use'. The course will be taught in 2016-2017.

Describing Morphosyntax

Course code	L_TAMATWS014 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
The student knows the fundamental notions and methods of descriptive
linguistics in the domains of morphology and syntax. The student knows
current typological, functional and cognitive frameworks within which
morphosyntactic phenomena can be understood and explained. The student
is able to apply fundamental notions and methods of descriptive

morphosyntax to data obtained from independent fieldwork. The student is able to evaluate the adequacy of morphosyntactic descriptions. The student is able to interact in a critical manner with literature in the field of descriptive morphosyntax.

Course content
Students learn how to describe and document the morphosyntax both of lesser documented or unknown languages, and of languages that they are acquainted with.

Form of tuition
During the working sessions (1 session of 2 hours per week), the course readings are explained, illustrated and discussed. At the beginning of the course, each student chooses one language (description) that (s)he would like to know more about; for students from the master Theology Bible Translation this might be one of the biblical languages. Throughout the course, students are expected to apply the central concepts from the literature to this language, and to share their findings with the other students. In addition, students get the opportunity to give a presentation and to get feedback on the topic about which (s)he plans to write a paper. Finally, working sessions are also used to apply the concepts discussed in class to new datasets.

Type of assessment
Written exam.

Course reading
Dixon, R.M.W. 2010. Basic linguistic theory, vol 1 and vol 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Selected chapters).
Payne, Thomas E. 1997. Describing morphosyntax, chapters 2-4. (Recommended as preparatory reading for those with little background in linguistics).

Target group
Research master Linguistics, master Taalwetenschappen, master Theology; Bible Translation.

English Text Editing MA

Course code	L_ETMAALG004 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Examinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
• The course has a vocational value. Many translators also do editing work. But it can also be very valuable for refining your own writing skills, as editing is really part of writing.
• The course develops specific skills, in particular relating to reading, error spotting and formulation.

• From a theoretical point of view the course aims (a) to further develop your insights into the relationship between cohesion and coherence; (b) to introduce you to the problems concerned in explaining the source of error: many problems in second language writing may be put down to interference from the first language, but problems also have other sources. (c) to problematize the notion of error.

Course content
• You first get an overview of what editing involves, plus a number of diagnostic exercises. You will get the opportunity to do the same exercises again at a later stage in the course.
• We then go on to look at matters concerning correctness at the level of the word, phrase and clause. This is called category 1 editing. There is a strong check function to this part: you should be already be reasonably comfortable with spotting, explaining and correcting the most frequent errors relating to spelling, punctuation, lexical choice, lexical grammar and clause grammar.
• Then you get an overview of category 2 editing, which involves message management. Special attention is paid to the categories of ordering, linking, coordinating and sentencing.
• There are exercises throughout, starting with material where you have to spot just one error in a sentence and then becoming more and more complex. Over the last two weeks of the course you will be dealing with text segments where anything at all may be wrong.
• There will be special treatment of alleged cultural differences between writing in Dutch and English.

Form of tuition
4 hrs per week

Type of assessment
A dossier of editing assignments (70% of the mark) plus a position paper on the practice of professional editing (30% of the mark).

Course reading
A reading list will be placed on Blackboard

Entry requirements
This course is open to master students who have a strong BA background in English language

Target group
Master students who wish to develop basic editing skills and refine their own writing process

Remarks
The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two sessions you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Forensic Linguistics 1: Why the Law Needs Language and Linguistics

Course code	L_NCMPLIN001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Coordinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Examinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Teaching staff	dr. F. van der Houwen
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	500

Forensic Linguistics 2: Methods of Authorship Analysis

Course code	L_AAMPLIN016 ()
Period	Period 5+6
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Examinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Teaching staff	dr. F. van der Houwen, prof. dr. P.T.J.M. Vossen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
The aim of this course is for students to gain insight into the
different kinds of authorship questions that linguists can (and cannot)
answer. Students will study and discuss the literature reporting on
different methods of doing authorship analysis and get hands on
experience in doing authorship analysis themselves.

Course content
In this course we will examine different methods that are currently used
to analyze the authorship of texts (such as letters of threat, text
messages, online reviews). Students will choose a project of their
interest and test different methods.

Form of tuition
weekly seminars

Type of assessment
reports and final paper

Course reading
Articles and chapters TBA

Target group
Students of the Research MA in Linguistics

Forensic Linguistics Term Paper

Course code	L_NCMPLIN002 ()
Period	Period 5+6
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Coordinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Examinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Level	500

Genre Design

Course code	L_AAMATEC003 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Examinator	dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Teaching staff	dr. C.M.J. van Hooijdonk, dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
The overall aim of this course is to bring theories and methods from
disparate areas of discourse analysis together to help you in adequately
orienting yourself towards issues that concern genre in discourse.The
course aims to raise your awareness of genre as a central concept for
producing and understanding different types of discourse both on a
theoretical and practical level. In doing so, the course will increase
your abilities as an academically trained communication professional to
deal with language in different communicative settings. This may involve
analysis, evaluation, improvement, design, production and translation of
written and spoken discourse from the point of view of genre, genre
conventions and genre expectations.

Course content
In this course, students familiarize themselves with the notion of genre
as a feature of discourse on a conceptual and a practical level.
Students will learn to apply the notion of genre as a 'tool for
thinking' that is instrumental in thinking about how to organize,
recognize and also produce different types of texts and talk. Student
will practice with different types of discourse, such a press releases,
speeches, TedTalks, and Facebook posts and try to explicate the (often
implicit) genre conventions and expectations from different point of
views: the communication professional or the audience.
The course will be organized around timely genre-related problems in the
area of language and communication in institutional settings. Examples
of these genre-related problems concern the alleged 'purity' of genres
used for particular communicative purposes ('genre zuiverheid'), the
risks in understanding hybrid genres, and the limitations of genre
bending and blending. In trying to come to terms with these problems
using a genre-based understanding of discourse, students will also
reflect on the value of different theoretical approaches that have been
developed to conceptualise and understand genre and how they can aid our
understanding of genre related design issues.
As future communication professionals, students will not only be able
and responsible for producing different types of discourse, but they
will also be able to understand the role of different variables that

constitute different genres by describing their relevance and arguing
what characteristics of the discourse need to be adapted to improve its
effectiveness in different communicative settings.
The course will combine theoretical discussions with hands-on work on
analysing illustrative genre extracts.

Form of tuition
Weekly lectures and seminars (2x2 hours).

Type of assessment
Assignments (30%) and exam (70%).
Students have to pass their exam and if not there will be a resit in
order to pas the course. The grades for the assignments can only be used
as compensation if the exam has resulted in a pas.

Course reading
List of articles and book chapters available via VU Library.

Entry requirements
BA degree in communication studies, language, linguistics, or other
field relevant to the course content.

Target group
Master's students of Communication Studies, Language or Linguistics.

Remarks
Students in the Research Master programme should realize that we expect
slightly more from them in terms of the quality of their research/the
level of their argumentation/the depth of their understanding of
genre-related issues in spoken and written discourse. The assignments
and exams will be graded accordingly.

Presence at the seminars is mandatory. You will be asked to leave the
course when you are absent at 2 or more seminars.

Genre Research

Course code	L_AAMATEC004 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen
Examinator	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen
Teaching staff	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen, dr. G. Mulder
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
The overall aim of this course is to turn the knowledge and skills you
learned in the course Genre Design to practice. You will apply your
knowledge and skills to the construction and design of a Ted Talk of
your own. The crux of the course lies in the empirical testing of the
communicative quality of your Ted Talk.

Course content

Issues of text quality will be considered against the background of the contents presented in Genre Design. In order to investigate whether a given genre variable influences the effectiveness of a Ted talk, you will design and produce two versions of your own TED talk. Then you will carry out informant-based research evaluating the effectiveness of your two versions. The results of the analysis will be written down in an academic research report.

Form of tuition

Lectures (2 hrs per week) and seminars (2 hrs per week)

Type of assessment

Research report.

Course reading

Readings will be announced on the BlackBoard site of the course.

Entry requirements

Genre Design.

Target group

Master Students Communication and Information Sciences, Language or Linguistics.

Linguistics Term Paper

Course code	L_AAMPLIN008 ()
Period	Period 5+6
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Examinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Level	500

Course objective

Writing a paper outline has several aims. Firstly, it forces the student to define the boundaries of his/her research (narrowing down the scope). Secondly, it helps the student organize his/her ideas. He/she is forced to present material in a logical form, and relate the different ideas in this paper in a cohesive way. Thirdly, writing an outline will aid the student in the process of writing. Finally, it allows for early feedback.

Course content

The student selects a research topic and contacts the preferred paper advisor. The topic of the research paper must differ from all course papers written by the student. However, it may be related to a course paper topic and/or the thesis topic. The student hands in an outline of the paper. The student discusses the term paper outline with the supervisor. The student then hands in the final draft of the term paper. Deadlines are set by instructor. Both the instructor and student may call for additional meetings, when needed. The instructor may establish

additional requirements. The outline must contain the following information: (1) a tentative, annotated table of contents. For each section, provide a title and describe its topic/goal in one or two sentences;
(2) the goal of the paper;
(3) the central thesis of the paper;
(4) line of argumentation;
(5) the proposed research methodology,
(6) preliminary bibliography.

Form of tuition
Several meetings with supervisor

Type of assessment
Writing a paper

Course reading
Depends on topic of the paper

Entry requirements
Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group
Students of the research master's Linguistics

Linguistics Tutorial 1

Course code	L_AAMPLIN002 (500610)
Period	Period 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Examinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Level	500

Course objective
The goal of a tutorial is to discuss a specific research question or thesis. Depending on the topic a tutorial can take one of many forms, ranging from a set of instructions to complete a task, to interactive sessions in which specific research topics are discussed, to reshaping a model of analysis in order to make it useful for a specific linguistic corpus or a specific research area, etcetera.

Course content
The way that the tutorial takes shape, is up to both the lecturer and the student. Together they will discuss the best way to deal with the specific research question. At the end of the tutorial, the student usually writes a paper on the specific research topic, including a description of the way that the tutorial was given shape.

Form of tuition
Interactive meetings with lecturer. Lecturer and student will decide on the frequency and form of the meetings.

Type of assessment
Depends on decisions made by lecturer and student

Course reading
Depends on topic of the tutorial

Entry requirements
Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group
Students of the research master's Linguistics

Remarks
Language of communication in the tutorial is English.

Linguistics Tutorial 2

Course code	L_AAMPLIN003 (500611)
Period	Period 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Level	500

Course objective
The goal of a tutorial is to discuss a specific research question or
thesis. Depending on the topic a tutorial can take one of many forms,
ranging from a set of instructions to complete a task, to interactive
sessions in which specific research topics are discussed, to reshaping a
model of analysis in order to make it useful for a specific linguistic
corpus or a specific research area, etcetera.

Course content
The way that the tutorial takes shape, is up to both the lecturer and
the student. Together they will discuss the best way to deal with the
specific research question. At the end of the tutorial, the student
usually writes a paper on the specific research topic, including a
description of the way that the tutorial was given shape.

Form of tuition
Interactive meetings with lecturer. Lecturer and student will decide on
the frequency and form of the meetings.

Type of assessment
Depends on decisions made by lecturer and student.

Course reading
Depends on the topic of the tutorial.

Entry requirements
Admission to the Research Master's Linguistics

Target group
Students in the Research Master's Linguistics

Remarks
Language of communication in the tutorial is English

Machine Learning

Course code	L_AAMPLIN019 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet, dr. A.S. Fokkens, dr. S. Castelli MA
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
This course provides students with the means to conduct NLP research
using machine learning. Students will learn: a) what the main machine
learning technologies used in Natural Language Processing are b) how
they work and how they can be used c) the methodologies for using these
technologies in NLP research. By the end of this course, students will
be able to (1) name and describe the main machine learning technologies
in NLP, (2) apply these technologies to specific NLP tasks (3) design a
research environment where machine learning is used to solve an NLP
problem, and (4) interpret and analyze evaluation results from machine
learning experiments.

Course content
Machine learning is a dynamic and active research field. The main goal
of machine learning is to develop systems which can automatically solve
different problems without being specifically programmed, i.e. by
learning from the data. In this course, we will focus on the use of
machine learning as a methodology for solving NLP related problems (e.g.
how to automatcally recognize parts-of-speech, how to extract
grammatical relations between lexical items, how to solve anaphoric
reference etc.). Both theories behind the techniques and practical
know-how will be covered.
Particular attention will be paid to the methodologies for using machine
learning in NLP research. We will cover the experimental setup, running
existing packages on new tasks and evaluation of overall results as well
as error analysis. The course covers practical skills that can be
useful in industry as well as in academia. It can be seen as a follow-up
course of the NLP technologies course, which dives deeper into machine
learning and experimental setup, but can be followed by any student with
sufficient linguistic and programming knowledge.

Form of tuition
Lectures and work group (2 hours/week)

Type of assessment
exam (50%); final project (50%)

Course reading
Course reader

Recommended background knowledge
Basic linguistic knowledge and basic programming skills

Target group
Master students (research masters language & communication, in
particular: linguistic engineering specialization)

Natural Language Processing Toolkits

Course code	L_AAMPLIN015 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching method(s)	Practical
Level	500

Course objective
Knowing the basic methods and technologies used in core NLP
technologies, knowing theoretical foundations and obtaining the skills
to find latest cutting-edge approaches as state-of-the-art software that
can be used in your own research. After finishing this course, students
will be able to come up with (basic) system designs and find the
necessary components for various NLP tasks.

Course content
Natural Language Processing is a highly dynamic research field that
mainly operates on the interface between linguistics and computer
science. In order to get computers to deal well with natural language,
it is important to understand both how language works and how
computational methods work. Computational linguists have developed
methods and technologies for language analysis. This course provides an
overview of these technologies for some of the core domains of Natural
Language Processing (morphology, syntax and (semantic) parsing,
semantics, discourse analysis). Students will be trained to find the
latest developments in this sometimes rapidly advancing field and,
specifically, where to find (more or less) ready-to-use tools that can
be used for various NLP tasks. The final weeks of the course offer the
opportunity to either dive deeper into one of the core technologies
covered in the course or to investigate an application that makes use of
these technologies.

Form of tuition
Interactive lectures and practical assignments

Type of assessment
Assignments

Course reading
Will be available on Blackboard

Recommended background knowledge
Computational Lexicon, Python for Linguists

Target group
Students RM Linguistic Engineering

Python Programming for Text Analysis

Course code	L_AAMPLIN017 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet, M.C. Postma MA, C.W.J. van Miltenburg MA
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
Goals of this course:
• Get to know the basics of the Python programming language
• Become an independent programmer, who is able to find solutions to new problems

Skills you will acquire during this course:
• Learn how to deal with unstructured text
• Learn how to deal with large amounts of data
• Learn how to share your code and results

Course content
During this course, you will learn how to analyze text data using the
Python programming language. No programming knowledge is required; we
believe that anyone can learn how to program.
You will learn how to extract information from text corpora; deal with
different file types (plain text, CSV, JSON, HTML, XML); deal with large
amounts of data; and visualize and share your results.
We will focus on readability and understandability, so that you will be
able to share your code and results with others, and re-use your code in
the future. This is a practical course, in which you will get a lot of
hands-on experience. Due to the nature of this course, active
participation is required.

Form of tuition
Interactive practical sessions.
Although parts of the lectures will be about programming and language
processing theory, the focus is on having interactive and practical
sessions. Students are expected to actively participate and ask

questions.

Type of assessment
Assignments (10%): The assignments are designed to practice your
programming and problem solving skills. Moreover, they allow us to keep
track of your progress, and identify topics that require more attention
in class.

Midterm exam (30%): The midterm exam is designed to test your knowledge
of Python. To pass this course, you need a passing grade (at least 5.5)
on the midterm.

The final assignment (60%): The final assignment tests your ability to
analyze textual data, present and store your results, and document and
share your code.

Students of the Research Master programme are expected to reach a higher
level in terms of the quality of their code.

Course reading
To be anounced on Blackboard. All materials are freely available online.

Entry requirements
There are no prerequisites to take this course.

Target group
Research Master Linguistics and other MA-students of any discipline

Remarks
All master students are most welcome!
Students are required to attend at least 80% of the classes. Students
who fail to do so without a valid reason will be excluded from the
course.

Research Master Thesis Linguistics

Course code	L_WAMPLINSCR (541652)
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	30.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Level	600

Course objective
The Master's thesis should show the student's advanced ability to
formulate relevant research questions, to find and evaluate information
and data in an independent and critical way, and to write a scientific
thesis within a given period of time. The student must aim at writing a
thesis that, at least, can be reworked into a good, publishable paper.

Course content
The student selects a research topic and contacts a preferred thesis
supervisor. This information is sent to the exam committee. The exam
committee evaluates the research topic, and assigns a supervisor. An
attempt will be made to assign the preferred supervisor. However, the

committee must ensure reasonable advising load for the individual lecturers. After that, a thesis contract and research plan are drawn and signed, and sent to the exam committee. The student hands in drafts of chapters of the thesis, on a regular basis. The supervisor provides written comments on each draft, and clarifies them in a meeting. All corrected drafts are kept until the thesis is completed.

Form of tuition
Interactive meetings with supervisor

Type of assessment
Writing a thesis

Course reading
Depends on topic of the thesis

Entry requirements
Admission to the research master's Linguistics and at least 60 ec

Target group
Students of the research master's Linguistics

Seminar Research Design 1

Course code	L_AAMPALG001 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam
Examinator	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam
Teaching staff	prof. dr. P.J.E.M. van Dam, dr. T. Krennmayr
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective
Being able to take a position in theoretical debates, to substantiate methodological choices and to point out innovative research possibilities in the field. Writing a research proposal.

Course content
The Research Design Seminar consists of two courses which will take place consecutively in the first and second year of your programme. In this first seminar students will be taught the initial steps to designing a research proposal which meets the highest requirements of N.W.O. and other science founding agencies. In the course the emphasis will be on exploring the academic context you operate in, and positioning yourself in scientific debates. Students will learn how to make methodological choices and to explore future research routes that may lead to innovative research. This will be done by means of site visits, in-depth discussions of theoretical articles, other sources and research proposals.

Form of tuition

The seminar course consists of seven weekly meetings of four hours each. All students will be expected to be well- prepared and to participate actively and autonomously at all times. Students will take on the roles of presenter, commentator and discussion leader.

Type of assessment
Oral and written presentations, comments on presentations by other students. Students will be assessed on their class participation, written assignments, oral presentations and their peer reviews of fellow students.

Course reading
To be announced

Entry requirements
Admission to research master

Target group
Students of research masters in the faculty of humanities

Remarks
Language in class is English.
Together Research Design 1 and Research Design 2 form a compulsory part of the Research Master Programme. The second course takes place in year two of the Research Master course.

Seminar Research Design 2

Course code	L_AAMPALG002 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Examinator	dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Teaching staff	dr. J.F. van der Meulen, dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	600

Course objective
In this course, students will learn how to write a research proposal according to the format of NWO or other international research organisations. This will prepare them for a possible PhD-application after graduation. After finishing this course, the students will:
• Be able to write a convincing research proposal for both peers and an interested lay audience;
• Understand the procedures and assessments for grant applications, and apply this knowledge when writing a research proposal;
• Be able to present a research proposal convincingly in a short time frame;
• Be able to convincingly reply to critical questions about the research proposal;
• Be able to evaluate research proposals, even when they are not from their own discipline, and to give a reasoned judgement about the quality.

Course content

In the Master courses Research Design 1 and 2 students learn about the culture of application and research practice in the scientific world, in particular in the field of Humanities. Students are also trained to design a research proposal that meets the highest requirements of judgment for PhD positions. In particular, the Research Design 2 course prepares for writing an individual research proposal that can be developed into a grant application.

In order to achieve this goal, the course focuses on the various aspects of the writing process, and on the procedures for grant application followed at NWO and other scientific bodies. This includes the dynamics of selection committees and the role of knowledge utilization.

The course is designed to start from the basics, by first developing a research idea into a short abstract that will be discussed with fellow students. Emphasis will be on defining the scientific impact of the research proposal, and on explaining this to non-experts. Following this, a final research proposal will be written that will be presented in a 'mock interview' setting, where the students will comment on one another's proposals.

In order to achieve the learning goals the following learning activities are offered:
1. Guest lectures
In a number of guest lectures (including PhD-students) you will be informed about what it takes to become a PhD-student, what are the relevant procedures for grant application, and how you can avoid the pitfalls.
2. Discussions
During the course, you will be asked frequently to actively reflect on all aspects of writing research proposals through discussion with your fellow students.
3. Presentations
Once you have developed and written down your ideas for a research proposal, you will present these in class to your fellow students.
4. Peer review
An important aspect of this course is receiving peer review from your fellow students. This will help you to understand whether you research proposal is sufficiently clear.

Form of tuition
Seminar

Type of assessment
During this course, the students will have to submit 4 written assignments, and will have one graded oral assignment (the 'mock interview'). Furthermore, there will be three non-graded assignments. The assessment programme is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT GRADING WEIGHT
evaluation of 2 research proposals 5%
draft abstract not graded
elevator pitch not graded
CV + knowledge utilisation 10%
final abstract 15%
draft proposal not graded
5 minute presentation 20%

'mock interview' 10%
final proposal 40%

Grades 0-10, attendance obligatory. Final grades below 6.0 are
insufficient. Grades between 5.5 and 6.0 will however be rounded to 6.0.
Grading for the assignments will be done on the basis of rubrics. These
rubrics will be made available through Blackboard.

Course reading
Provided through Blackboard

Entry requirements
Seminar Research Design 1

Target group
Research master students

Subjectivity Mining

Course code	L_AAMPLIN018 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	drs. E. Maks
Examinator	drs. E. Maks
Teaching staff	drs. E. Maks, dr. R. Morante Vallejo
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective
Understanding subjectivity in text by analyzing opinions, sentiment,
modality, speculation, etc.;Annotating layers of subjectivity in tekst;
Developing and using subjectivity lexicons; Design a research
environment where NLP techniques are used to solve a subjectivity mining
subtask.; Interpret and analyze results of the subjectivity mining
process.

Course content
Subjectivity is one of the key elements of natural language. Every
communicative act is subjective to some degree. Subjectivity starts with
the intentions of the producer of the message and affects its associated
functions and syntactic structures, not to mention the choice of
vocabulary and associated connotations. This course combines theoretical
linguistic notions about perspectives with hands-on work on real
language data in the lab. Moving between theory, discussions, practical
data annotation and data use (machine learning and quantative/
qualitative analysis), you explore a wide range of linguistic phenomena:
modality, attribution, factuality, sentiment emotions and opinions.

Form of tuition
lectures (2 hours/week)

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments

Course reading
to be announced

Recommended background knowledge
Linguistic knowledge and basic programming skills

Target group
master students (research masters language & communication, in
particular: linguistic engineering specialization