

# Introduction to linguistics

– Course description –

**Code:** BBN-ANG-132/q (ANN-142/q; AFN-142/q; AN-142/q)

**Term:** Autumn 2008

**Time:** Friday 14.00–15.30

**Room:** E 327

**Teacher:** Julia Bacskai-Atkari (DELG)

**Availability:** [bacskai-atkari.julia@chello.hu](mailto:bacskai-atkari.julia@chello.hu)  
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**Office:** E 450

## Description:

This seminar is given in English, aiming to provide students with certain skills and approaches of linguistics necessary for their further studies, besides helping them prepare for the BBN-FLN-101 lecture course exam. The material is intended to cover the basics of diverse areas of English linguistics and to cast light upon what language is (and what it is not). Each week some aspect of language and linguistics will be discussed from a practical point of view, mostly by solving tasks together. Last but not least, this seminar also intends to convince students that linguistics is interesting.

## Syllabus:

5 <sup>th</sup> September	no class (registration week)	
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Topic 1 Language, speech, and writing	
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Topic 2 The linguistic sign	
26 <sup>th</sup> September	Topic 3 Grammar and grammars	
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Topic 4 Phonetics and phonology	In-class test I
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Topic 5 Morphology	
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Topic 6 Syntax I	
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Topic 6 Syntax II	
31 <sup>st</sup> October	no class (autumn break)	
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Topic 7 Semantics	In-class test II
14 <sup>t</sup> November	Topic 8 Varieties of English	
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Topic 9 Historical linguistics	
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Topic 10 Pragmatics	
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Surprise	In-class test III
12 <sup>th</sup> December	entering grades	

## Set texts:

Obligatory:

László Varga (2008), *Introduction to English Linguistics: A Companion to the Seminar*.  
Available at: <http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/VargaLaszlo/index.html>

Recommended:

ed. Borbála Richter (2006), *First Steps in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*.  
Budapest: Bölcsész Konzorcium.  
Available at: <http://mek.oszk.hu/05200/05298>

## Requirements and assessment

(1) There will be three **in-class tests** (from topics 1–3, 4–6, 7–10). In order to get a valid grade, students are required to write at least **two** of them; if they choose to write all the three, naturally only the best two results will count. Note that there are no retakes. The final grade is practically based on the result of the two tests (80% altogether – 40% each).

(2) A **short homework exercise** will be assigned for each class. Students are required to hand in homework in time: the class the exercise was assigned for (or, alternatively, via email on the same day by 18.00 the latest). Late homework counts as a 1; in order to get a valid grade, however, all homework exercises must be submitted by 5<sup>th</sup> December the latest. The average quality of the home assignments may slightly affect the final grade (10%).

(3) Students are kindly encouraged to learn regularly in order to facilitate preparation for the in-class tests and to ensure that they are familiar with certain key notions necessary for further discussions. To provide an opportunity for students to show that they do so, there will be a **short quiz** at the beginning of each class (a maximum of two questions concerning the key terms of the previous week's discussion), except for classes for which an in-class test is scheduled. Again, the average result of these may only slightly affect the final grade (10%).

There is **no** Home Paper.

In short:

two in-class tests:	80%
Σ homework:	10%
Σ quizzes:	10%

## Absence policy:

A **maximum of 3 absences** will be tolerated. 4 absences will NOT be tolerated and the student will be automatically deleted from the group after the 4<sup>th</sup> absence. We do not check why students are absent, nor do we accept apologies. This practice follows the general policy on absences. Being more than 15 minutes late will also count as an absence.

## Readings

This list contains all the obligatory readings for this seminar. Make sure you read them **after** we have discussed the relevant topics in class. Reading the assigned texts is necessary for the quizzes and the in-class tests.

- Topic 1 Varga (2008): Unit 3, 1.1 (p. 26–28)
- Topic 2 Varga (2008): Unit 1, 1–2 (p. 8–11)
- Topic 3 Varga (2008): Unit 2, 1–4 (p. 19–23)
- Topic 4 Varga (2008): Unit 4 (p. 41–50)
- Topic 5 Varga (2008): Unit 5 (p. 53–59)
- Topic 6 Varga (2008): Unit 6 (p. 61–70)
- Topic 7 Varga (2008): Unit 7 (p. 73–80)
- Topic 8 Varga (2008): Unit 9 (p. 89–93)
- Topic 9 Varga (2008): Unit 10 (p. 96–101)
- Topic 10 Varga (2008): Unit 8 (p. 82–87)