

Jordan University of Science and Technology
Department of English Language and Linguistics
Master's Degree in Linguistics
Course Description
2021/2022

This document details the course descriptions for **Master's Degree in Linguistics**.

ENG 700 Seminar (1 hour)

This seminar is intended to be an introduction to research methods in linguistics, with the aim of familiarizing students with the main methodologies by analysis of relevant studies from the literature and hands-on experience with study design.

ENG 751 Phonetics and Phonology (3 hours)

The course aims to expose students to basic knowledge in phonetics followed by an advanced investigation of phonological analysis. Students will be exposed to a variety of theoretical frameworks used in phonological analysis including generative phonology and Optimality Theory. Special emphasis will be on segmental phonemic analysis which aims to discover allophonic alternations in consonant and vowel pronunciations. Basic segmental phenomena will be discussed such as assimilation, deletion, and epenthesis. Further investigations will cover supra segmental aspects of syllable structure and stress assignment. Non-linguistic variables such as age, gender and social class will be discussed phonologically where relevant.

ENG 761 Pragmatics (3 hours)

This course is on the study of how meaning beyond the literal is communicated in context. It provides systematic examination of how meaning is encoded in words and sentences, and how it can emerge from the complexity of the grammar. This course also touches on various aspects of pragmatics—the study of how meaning is shaped by context.

ENG 762 Semantics (3 hours)

This course is mainly concerned with the semantics of natural language. It offers an introduction to concepts and methods used in the analysis of natural language meaning through a survey of major current approaches and their findings. Topics include lexical semantics, predication and quantification, scope and anaphora, various issues at the interface of semantics and pragmatics, cross-linguistic semantics, and semantics at the language-cognition interface.

ENG 771 Syntax (3 hours)

This course aims at helping students develop a sound understanding of Minimalist Syntax. Therefore, it seeks to unravel the major principles that underlie language use and show how knowledge of language arises in the minds of the speaker/ hearer. As such, it seeks to enable the students to use the necessary theoretical tools required to carry out a formal analysis of syntactic data, put theory-based assumptions to the test, and develop syntactic arguments.

ENG 772 Morphology (3 hours)

This course covers the major empirical and theoretical issues in the study of morphology, emphasizing links to other components of grammar. It introduces major concepts in the study of morphology and discusses its place within linguistic theory. Therefore, the course seeks to familiarize students with different types of morphology and how it is used across languages, principles of language govern the distribution of morphology, and how morphology interacts with other components of language.

ENG 781 Sociolinguistics (3 hours)

This course critically examines the premises which underlie recent studies of the complex relationship between language and society. The focus will be on those fundamental methodological and theoretical considerations associated with the quantification and definition of linguistic and speaker variables within Labovian and other sociolinguistic paradigms.

ENG 782 Approaches to Discourse (3 hours)

The course provides a comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of the meaning of discourse and text, and the origins of discourse analysis. It introduces and examines different approaches to discourse, including the systemic functional approach, discourse and society, discourse and genre in academic and professional domains, discourse and conversation analysis, discourse grammar, critical discourse analysis, and corpus-based approaches to discourse. Based on their background knowledge of these different approaches, students are expected to practice doing discourse analysis.

ENG 783 Intercultural Communication (3 hours)

This course provides students with a cutting-edge critical approach to the field of intercultural communication and brings together a wide range of expertise to explore the cultural complexities and diversity of our current times from a variety of conceptual, disciplinary and professional perspectives. It helps students understand how culture and communication intersect in the context of intercultural communication.

ENG 784 Stylistics (3 hours)

This course explores the ways in which linguistic choices can contribute to the ways in which readers understand and interpret texts, and some of the methods that have been developed for exploring the relationship between textual structures and their effects. The course will cover areas such as the language of poetry, the language of fiction, and the language of non-fiction. The course will extend students' knowledge of linguistic structure, showing, for example, how linguistic concepts such as tense and modality are important for understanding point of view in narratives.

ENG 785 Semiotics (3 hours)

Semiotics is the study of signs in various forms used to communicate and share ideas or meanings. It extends the notion of text beyond the written page to any artifact that can "stand for" something else, including pictures, sounds, gestures, body language, and even objects. It is, therefore, the study of making meaning (both "encoding" and "decoding") in its widest possible sense. This course is concerned with the description of sign systems and the codes that structure meaning, as well as the particular instances or events in which signs are constructed. Particularly, it focuses on the concept of sign and its practical usage and analysis as introduced by the two most prominent figures Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles S. Peirce. The students are given the variety of usage of sign, how it works, what it means and why it means what it means. Students are also equipped with the ability to do the analysis of any kinds of sign, verbal or nonverbal.

ENG 790 Psycholinguistics (3 hours)

This course seeks to showcase contemporary understanding of basic questions on the use of language, such as: first or foreign language acquisition, production and understanding of sentences, language processing, causes of errors in language production and what these errors tell us about the neural organization of language, neurologic disorders and how they may lead to impairment of language.

ENG 791 Cognitive Linguistics (3 hours)

This course introduces the theoretical foundations of cognitive linguistics. Further, it introduces the relationship between language and cognitive processing in the human brain. It also discusses the conceptual structures and cognitive processes governing linguistic representation and behavior. Cognitive approaches to lexical semantics, as well as syntactic representation and analysis are explored.

ENG 792 Historical-comparative Linguistics (3 hours)

All languages are constantly in a process of change and over time, related languages can diverge and become different from one another. Linguists have developed techniques for studying language change and for comparing languages in order to group them into families and reconstruct their parent forms. Historical linguistics (also called diachronic linguistics) is the field of study concerned with how and why languages change. Comparative linguistics refers to the study of how languages are classified into families, and encompasses methods for reconstructing earlier stages of a language on the basis of available evidence. These two areas are closely entwined, and usually taken to constitute a single field of study. Major topics in historical linguistics include types of linguistic change, comparative and internal reconstruction, establishing of historical (genetic) relatedness among languages, the relationship between variation and change, and the role of social factors in language change.

ENG 793 Computational Linguistics (3 hours)

This course explores natural language processing. It, therefore, seeks to show how natural language can be computationally modelled by developing syntactic and semantic frameworks. It also seeks to familiarize student with methods, both theoretical and empirical, which draw upon theories and findings in theoretical linguistics, philosophical logic, cognitive science, and computer science.

ENG 794 Language Acquisition (3 hours)

This course provides an overview of language acquisition in typical, atypical, and second language learners. Topic areas include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, child-directed speech, the role of cognitive development, and theories of language acquisition.

ENG 795 Language Typology (3 hours)

This course is particularly concerned with identifying the similarities and differences among world languages that hold across genetic, areal, and cultural boundaries. What it seeks to offer is a broad topical coverage of historical change, language acquisition, and language processing. Students are exposed to numerous examples of cross-linguistic generalizations and diversity in syntax, morphology, and phonology, as well as vocabulary, writing systems, and signed languages.

ENG 796 Neurolinguistics (3 hours)

This course introduces the key principles and goals of modern neurolinguistics as a science that incorporates methods and paradigms of linguistics and neuroscience. This course discusses the main units and organizational principles of the human nervous system that underlie our language capacity. Students will learn about the neurophysiological aspects of first and second language learning, clinical research in speech, reading and writing disorders, and speech disorders accompanying various psychiatric conditions. The course includes information on the history of neurolinguistics, modern techniques and methods of neurolinguistic research, and provides detailed examples of recent studies in the field.

ENG 797 Topics in Linguistics (3 hours)

This course offers more knowledge to students in a particular aspect of linguistics. It serves as an advanced course dealing with special topics in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, or pragmatics.

ENG 798 Comprehensive Exam (0 hours)

At the end of the program, student must satisfactorily complete a comprehensive examination over linguistics. The material covered on the exam is deemed essential to a broad knowledge of the discipline at the graduate level by the current faculty members of the department.

ENG 799 Master Thesis (A, B, C, D) (9, 6, 3, 0 hours)

The thesis component of Master's in Linguistics is meant to demonstrate advanced study and inquiry into a particular topic of linguistics. The thesis should be a work of original scholarship, designed with guidance from a thesis advisor and thesis committee.