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| **General Information** |
| **Course name** | Specialised Language Seminar | **ECTS Credits** | **3** |
| **Semester** | **summer** |
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| **Aims** |
| The main aim of this course is to explore the nature of language and its relation to the mind and the world. The course develops and strengthens skills in logical reasoning and problem solving, which are invaluable in any field.  |
| **Contents** |
| The course will be organized around the selected chapters from Steven Pinker ́s The Language Instinct. This book has been a bestseller, yet the author is a respected linguist. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to read the assigned texts. Students must come to class having read and thought carefully about the assigned readings so that you are prepared to take an active part in our discussions. In general, you should be consistently and thoughtfully participating in our class discussions. Each student in the class will give a presentation on a chapter of Steven Pinker’s The Language Instinct. I will distribute more information about the presentations in week 3. The presentation must be completed in order to pass the course (50% of the final grade). Students will write a paper of 4-5 pages (typed, double spaced, 12 point type), due in week 10. Further instruction about the paper will be given in week 3. The paper will be graded (50% of the final grade). |
| **Evaluation** |
| Students are expected to attend each class according to the schedule. More than two unexcused absences are not acceptable (extreme situations aside), making the third unexcused absence an automatic failure for the course. Each student will be required to give a presentation based on the assignment provided in advance and hand in a paper of 4-5 pages. There will be no retake for any part of the continuous assessment (1 written paper = 50%, 1 oral presentation = 50%). Final mark will be based on the sum of 2 parts of continuous assessment: a paper of 4-5 pages (50%) and oral presentation (50%). Pass level is 65%. There will be no retakes. 100-92%=A=1 91-87%=B=1.5 86-82%=C=2 81-77%=D=2.5 76-65%=E=3 64-0%=FX=4=failed |
| **Bibliography** |
| Pinker, S. (1994). The Language Instinct. London: Penguin books. supplementary material provided by the course instructor |