

COURSE DETAIL

FROM LANGUAGE TO LINGUISTICS

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University

Program(s)

Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Linguistics

UCEAP Course Number

101

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

FROM LANGUAGE TO LINGUISTICS

UCEAP Transcript Title

LANG TO LING

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The goal of the course is to acquaint the participants with the central notions and principles of linguistics—a scientific study of human language that probes into the nature of language itself and seeks to answer the fundamental questions as to what language is and how it works. Students learn to use the formal tools of morphological and syntactic analyses and connect these to the position of language as a cognitive module. Under the view adopted, linguistics is a branch of cognitive psychology since it studies our competence (knowledge of natural language) which is, in turn, an aspect of our mind. The participants are acquainted with the leading ideas, central notions and fundamental principles of theoretical linguistics, concerned with the constructing of models of linguistic knowledge. The course particularly focuses on morphology and syntax as two sub-fields of theoretical linguistics. The course deals with the “nature-nurture” debate, searches for explanations of linguistic universals, but it also discusses the boundaries of natural language. It discusses how Universal Grammar operates and how natural language relates to other cognitive processes. A central role in the course is given to getting ourselves familiarized with the core structural principles of natural language. As the title of the course indicates, the starting point is the wonderment about the data from the participants' native language(s), but the goal is to analyze these data and compare them, in a systematic fashion, with data from other languages, both closely and distantly related to it.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

TW1V13001

Host Institution Course Title

FROM LANGUAGE TO LINGUISTICS

Host Institution Campus

Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Languages, Literature and Communication

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