



COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Paradigms in Linguistic Research

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study programme

1.1. University	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	Doctoral School of Linguistic and Literary Studies
1.4. Field of study	Language and literature
1.5. Study cycle	Doctoral studies
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Doctorate in Philology/ Doctor of Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1. Course title		Contemporary Paradigms in Linguistic Research				Course code		LDR1206				
2.2. Course tutors			Prof. Ștefan Oltean, PhD / Prof. Liana Pop, PhD									
			Syllabus for module 1 (Ștefan Oltean)									
2.3. Seminar / practical course (laboratory) tutors			Prof. Ștefan Oltean, PhD / Prof. Liana Pop, PhD									
			Syllabus for module 1 thematic content (Ștefan Oltean)									
2.4. Year of study		1	2.5. Semester		1	2.6. Type of assessment		C	2.7. Course status		Contents	DF
											Mandatory	DO

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2. curs	2	3.3. seminar / practical course (laboratory)	1
3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum	36 (18 of which for module 1)	of which: 3.5. curs	24 (12 of which for module 1)	3.6 seminar / practical course (laboratory)	12 (6 of which for module 1)
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					48
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					74
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					48
Tutoring (professional counselling)					6
Examinations					2
Other activities					36
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					214

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3.8. Total hours per semester	250
3.9. Number of credits	10

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	
4.2. skills	knowledge of English and French

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for delivering lectures	Classroom equipped with blackboard, projector and computer, internet access
5.2. for teaching seminars / practical courses (laboratory classes)	Seminar room, projector, smartboard, internet access

6. Acquired specific skills

Professional/essential skills	C1 Appropriate use of linguistic concepts (specific, general, comparative or contrastive) C2 Interpretation of language phenomena from various perspectives (diachronic, synchronic and their interconnectedness) C3 In-depth characterization of language phenomena C4 Analysis and presentation of language phenomena according to the theoretical framework/prevaling linguistic school C5 Analysis and presentation of aspects subsidiary to the research (inter- and transdisciplinarity). C6 Logically and grammatically correct argumentation
Transversal skills	CT1 Use of languages and literature components in full compliance with professional ethics CT2 Setting up of an individual research project in compliance with research norms in the field of humanities CT3 Organization of a panel discussion on various topics to be debated in class

7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To examine the basic ideas of the generative enterprise and their relevance for our understanding of the nature of human language Examine the relevance of possible world semantics for the study of meaning in natural language
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand generative notions and concepts and to know how to apply them to the analysis of language phenomena To examine the relevance of truth-conditional or possible world semantics for the description of meaning in natural language and to know how to apply this framework to the semantic analysis linguistic expressions

8. Contents

Course and seminar	Teaching methods	Remarks
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1. The Chomskyan perspective on language. Universal grammar, parameters, movement, phonetic form, logical form	Lecture and heuristic conversation Interactive presentation. Analysis and interpretation	Each course is designed in close connection with the corresponding seminar, both emphasizing the doctoral students' interventions on the proposed topic.
2. Contemporary theories of meaning. Cognitive theories, truth conditional theories, meaning as social practice		
3. Possible worlds for semantics. Transworld identity, rigid and nonrigid designators		
4. Quantification. Standard accounts and generalized quantifiers		
5. Intensionality. Propositional attitudes		
6. Indexicality. The relevance of context for semantic interpretation		
Bibliography	For the meetings held during the semester, PhD students will be required to review recent scholarly works, discuss them in class, and/or write reviews of them. The readings will serve as a starting point for the specific discussions that will take place. PhD students are asked to prepare and annotate these texts before the meetings in order to be able to conduct informed discussions based on them.	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cappelen, Herman, Ernie Lepore. <i>Language Turned On Itself</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.2. Chierchia, Gennaro and Sally McConnell-Ginet. <i>Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics</i>. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2000.3. Chomsky, Noam. <i>Knowledge of Language: Its Nature, Origin, and Use</i>. New York: Praeger, 1986, pp.1-50.4. Von Fintel, Kay, Irene Heim, <i>Intensional Semantics</i>, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT, 2010.5. Koenenman, Olaf, Hedde Zeijlstra, <i>Introducing Syntax</i>, Cambridge: University Press, 2017.6. Kripke, Saul. <i>Naming and Necessity</i>. În Donald Davidson, Gilbert Harman (eds.), <i>Semantics of Natural Language</i>, Dordrecht: Reidel, 1972.7. Lewis, David. Possible worlds. În Loux, M. J., (ed.), <i>The Possible and the Actual: Readings in the Metaphysics of Modality</i>. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press: 182-189.8. Michael J. Loux (ed.). <i>The Possible and the Actual: readings in the metaphysics of modality</i>. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1979.9. Mel'čuk, Igor, Jasmina Milićević, <i>An Advanced Introduction to Semantics. A Meaning-Text Approach</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.10. Oltean, Ștefan. <i>Introducere în semantica referențială</i>. Cluj: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2006.11. Portner, P. H. <i>What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics</i>. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.12. Soames, Scott. <i>Beyond Rigidity. The Unfinished Semantic Agenda of 'Naming and Necessity</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.	



9. Correlating course contents with the expectations of representatives of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers related to the field of study

- The thematic content is developed based on core international requirements in the field of study;
- The teaching staff are holders of a doctor's degree in philology;
- In accordance with ARACIS standards, the doctoral school maintains an ongoing collaboration with representatives of the socioeconomic and professional environment both in the home country and abroad, as well as with various research networks and professional associations in which the teaching staff are active.

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Criteria and assessment method	10.2 Assessment process
10.3 Course and seminar	<p>To graduate in the discipline, doctoral students will opt to be assessed in one of the two modules, completing the work assignments in the chosen module.</p> <p>As a means of assessment for module 1, doctoral students must obtain a grade based on a review or a paper of at least 5 pages, which should be related to the individual research project and should comply with the norms of academic writing.</p>	<p>The course instructors jointly agree on two exam dates during the official session for finalizing the grade. Two weeks before the end of teaching activities, the doctoral students jointly submit a request to the director of the doctoral school for evaluation in one of the modules.</p> <p>The request will include two lists showing the distribution of the doctoral students registered for evaluation with each of the two course instructors. Both the request and the individual grade certificates will be signed by the evaluating instructor (who determines the grade), as well as by the other course instructor and by the thesis director (who cannot serve as evaluator).</p> <p>The possible ratings are: very good, good, satisfactory or unsatisfactory.</p>
10.6	Minimum performance standard	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of the syntactic and the semantic aspects of language; the PhD student knows the main notions and concepts in the field, has a clear view of their acceptance and uses them in compliance with academic standards. 	

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

	General label for Sustainable Development
should 	

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Date of completion:
01.10.2025

Course tutor's name and signature

Seminar tutor's name and signature

Date of approval in the Department:
10.10.2025

Director - Doctoral School of Linguistic and Literary

Studies,

Prof. univ. dr. habil. Adrian CHIRCU-BUFTEA

Date of approval in the Dean's Office
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