Department of Linguistics

Stockholm University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Independent Project for the Degree of Master (120 Credits), General Linguistics
Allmän språkvetenskap - masterkurs

30.0 Higher Education Credits
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	LIM021
Valid from:	Spring 2015
Date of approval:	2014-10-08
Department	Department of Linguistics
Main field:	Linguistics
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of the Humanities on September 14, 2012.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0021	Independent Project for the Degree of Master	30

Course content

The independent project is a preparation for the research at the third cycle level and gives the student in-depth knowledge and skills in terms of planning, implementing and presenting an independent and well-defined research project in the student's main field of study. Primarily, the focus is on working on the individual project, but the course also includes joint seminars. The specific project is selected and formulated in consultation with the teacher and / or supervisor with special expertise in the student's main field of study. The project should be built on relevant research methods and theory, have a satisfactory academic standard, and be completed with the knowledge and consideration of existing research ethics.

Learning outcomes

Having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to
- critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations within the course's main field of study
- on the basis of a deepened methodological awareness and a deeper insight into current research and development work, critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out an advanced individual project within specified time limits, while observing prevailing principles of research ethics
- clearly present and discuss the conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts
- evaluate, report on and discuss academic writing in terms of form, method and content.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of seminars and supervision. An individual supervisor is appointed by the course coordinator. Attendance at seminars is compulsory.

Forms of examination

a. The following methods of assessment are used: i) a general purpose summary in which the topic of the independent project is formulated; ii) a written independent project in which the student's conducted research task is reported; iii) a public discussion of the student's independent project; iv) a critique of another student's independent project; v) participation in seminar discussions. In order to be assessed on assignments ii-iv) the student must have a passing grade on assignment i).

b. Grades are given according to a referenced seven-point scale.

A = Excellent
B = Very Good
C = Good
D = Satisfactory
E = Adequate
Fx = Insufficient
F = Fail

c. The grading criteria will be distributed to the students at the beginning of the course.

d. A passing grade on all assignments is required in order to obtain a grade for the whole course. If there are special reasons the examiner may, after consultation with the teacher, grant the student exemption from compulsory instruction, the student may then be required to hand in a compensatory assignment.

e. At least one assessment session and one re-assessment session is given during the current semester for assignment i), and at least one assessment session is given for assignment ii-v). Students who have not achieved a passing grade during the current semester will be given the opportunity for a new assessment during the subsequent semesters.

A student who has received a passing grade may not be assessed again in order to get a higher grade.

A student who has received a failing grade twice on a given assignment and by the same examiner can be granted a new examiner, unless there are specific reasons against it. The application should be addressed to the board of the department.

f. Complementation of an assignment graded Fx up to a passing grade can be granted if the student is close to a passing grade. The complement must be submitted within a week after the student has received the information from the examiner. Assignments receiving a passing grade after complementation will be graded according to the scale C-E, if the complementation concerns questions on understanding – minor misunderstandings, minor errors or limited reasoning to some parts. If the complementation concerns minor errors in the formalities the test will be graded according to the scale A-E.

g. The student has the right to supervision of at least fourteen contact hours.

h. The following criteria will be used for grading the independent project

- The quality of the presentation of the project’s topic and the theoretical background.
- The level of connection between the theoretical background and the practical work done.
- The quality of the execution of the research project. Consideration is also given to the planning aspect.
- The quality of the presentation of the project.
- The quality of the discussion of the work carried out.
- The level of autonomy in the implementation of the independent project.
- The quality of the presentation and critique of another student’s independent project.
- The ability to prepare, carry out, and discuss given tasks during the seminars.

These criteria are specified in the grading criteria which will be distributed to the students at the beginning of the course.

i. Under special circumstances a change of supervisor may be granted. The request for such a change, with a written statement of the reasons why a change should be granted, should be addressed to the board of the department. To change examiner, see section e.

j. Students, who do not complete their independent project during the current semester, miss the opportunity to have their project graded higher than the grade C. Supervision is only guaranteed during the semester the student is first registered on the course. If student re-register on the course, it is up to the course coordinator

to grant further supervision.

Interim

When the course is no longer offered or its content have been essentially revised, the student has the right to be examined according to this course syllabus once per semester for a thre-semester period (however the restrictions under Forms of examination in this syllabus still hold.) The application should be addressed to the board of the department.

Limitations

This course cannot be included in a degree together with national or international courses whose content completely or partly correspond with the content of this course.

Required reading

For current literature, please go to the course sites on the department's website: www.ling.su.se. The current reading list is available one month before the course starts.