Module Title: Foundations of Language

Module Code: LIN4208

Credit Value: 30

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module is an introduction to theoretical linguistics. By the end of the module you will know the core concepts and technical terms of modern linguistics, and you'll be used to thinking systematically about language. You'll also be able to use some of the basic but crucial analytical tools of modern linguistics, and you'll be able to see how linguistic argumentation works. You'll have an understanding of how the various sub-disciplines of linguistics relate to each other. The point of doing all this is to give you the basis you'll need to do more advanced linguistics, and to think profitably about aspects of language in general.

In addition to the weekly two-hour lectures, you'll also have to attend weekly two-hour seminars which are taught in smaller groups (which start in week 1). The seminars will provide you with practical experience of solving linguistic problems in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The practical exercises will develop the concepts and terminology introduced in the lectures. You will learn how to analyse problems which introduce unfamiliar data, how to explore the consequences of the analyses you propose, and you'll gain a practical insight into the process of hypothesis testing in linguistics in a number of different domains of the field.