



## Course Outline

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Introduction to Language Sciences</b>
Credit points	2 (LV) 3 (ECTS)
Total hours	24
Lecture hours	12
Seminar and other hours	12
Course level	Masters

### COURSE TEACHERS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
1	Māris BALTIŅŠ	Dr.habil.med.	Professor

### COURSE ABSTRACT

Course contains information on general understanding of language, short history of linguistics, functions (roles) of language in the society, major problems of language study (morphemes, words, sentences, texts), semantics, lexicography, language changes and differences, language policy, and sociolinguistics. General principles of terminology are also included. Course is tailored to help lawyer linguists apply basic principles of linguistic in their everyday work with multilingual texts with an emphasis on similarities and discrepancies of English and Latvian.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge: Understanding of general concepts of linguistics and principles of terminology

Skills: Analyse the legal text to identify and solve linguistic problems important for drafting, revising and editing.

### GRADING CRITERIA

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Exam	85%
Class participation	15%

## COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

<b>Session</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Introduction to linguistics. Origins of language. Language and other communication systems. Functions of language. Universal properties of language. Definitions of language. Approaches to the study of language.
2	The sounds of language: Articulatory phonetics; Classification of sounds: manner and place of articulation, suprasegmentals; Transcription: IPA chart. Acoustic phonetics. Phonology: phonemes and allophones; Phonological alternations. Forensic phonetics.
3	Words and their parts: morphology. Words and morphemes; Lexical and grammatical morphemes; Allomorphs; Word formation: derivation, compounding; Inflection: person, gender, case, tense, aspect, mood.
4	Syntax: Universal Grammar: principles and parameters. Recursion. Modularity of language and centrality of syntax. Lexical vs. functional categories. Compositionality; Projection; Merge; Sentence construction; Adjunction; Movement and deletion.
5	Meaning: semantics and pragmatics. Semantic and pragmatic meaning. Fundamental semantic concepts. The Principle of Compositionality. Thematic roles and lexical semantics; Quantification; Scope ambiguity; Extensional and intensional meaning. Semantics and the law. Pragmatics: indexicality, context-dependency and anaphora. Presupposition. Implicature. Speech acts. Speech acts and the law.
6	Discourse: the use of language above and beyond the sentence; Language use in everyday life; The ethnography of communication: speech act, speech event, speech situation. Spoken and written discourse. Sequential and distributional analysis; Repair and recipient design. Adjacency pairs. Turn-taking; Written discourse: cohesion and cohesive ties. Registers.
7	Study of language: historical development of linguistic ideas. Genetic and typological classification of languages. Writing systems. Orthography.
8	Language in the society. Concept of standard language Spoken and written language. Multilingualism. Language change. Language culture. Descriptive vs prescriptive approach to language. Concept of purism.
9	Language for general purpose (LGP) vs language for special purposes (LSP). Place of terminology in the frame of knowledge system. Word vs term: similarities and discrepancies. Term and word, term and concept, term and definition. Types of definitions.
10	Formation of new terms: derivation, compounding, semantic shift, borrowing. Neologisms. Use of classical languages. Abbreviations. False friends of translator and false terms.
11	Requirements for terms: ideal and reality. ISO standards regarding terms. History of the development and harmonising of terminology.
12	Sources of terminology and its critical appraisal. Terminography. Lexicology and lexicography. General types of dictionaries. Description of lexical entities in dictionaries.

## COURSE LITERATURE

<b>No.</b>	<b>Author, title, publisher</b>
1	Aitchison, J. Understand linguistics (Aitchison's linguistics). Hodder Education. London, 2010. 306 p.
2	Cabré, T., Terminology. Theory, methods and application. John Benjamins publishing company, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 1998. 247 p.
3	Crystal, D. How language works. Penguin Group, London, 2007. 500 p.
4	An introduction to language and linguistics. Ed. by Ralph Fasold and Jeff Connor-Linton. Cambridge U. Pr. 2006
5	Handbook of terminology management. Vol. 1. Basic aspects of terminology management. Compiled by S. E. Wright and G. Budin. John Benjamins publishing company, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 1997. 370 p.