



Universidade de Vigo

Lingüística informática e de corpus aplicadas á lingua inglesa

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GUÍA DOCENTE E MATERIAL DIDÁCTICO
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MÁSTER INTERUNIVERSITARIO EN ESTUDOS INGLESES AVANZADOS E AS SÚAS APLICACIÓNS

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COURSE TITLE

English corpus linguistics

ECTS CREDITS

3 ECTS credits

COURSE TYPE

Optional

SEMESTER

2nd semester (Spring)

PREREQUISITES

None

AIMS AND SKILLS

The aim of this course is to introduce the field of corpus linguistics and corpus-based methodology for the linguistic study of English. General issues about the design, collection and analysis of corpus material will be discussed. In practical sessions students will learn how to search and analyse text corpora using software tools. Students will develop the ability to describe and discuss the extent to which language usage varies and can be tracked with reference to genuine examples attested in corpora.

With this course students will acquire skills in:

- the principles and methodology of English corpus linguistics;
- the practical use of linguistic corpora and related software;
- the discussion of specialized literature on corpus linguistics;
- the presentation of research results.

COMPETENCES

G01, G02, G03, G04, G05, G06, G07, G08, G09, E01, E02, E14.

CONTENTS

- Introduction (description vs. theory; corpus vs. computational linguistics; brief history of corpus linguistics).
- What is a corpus? (defining a corpus, types of corpora, corpus resources).
- Corpus design and compilation (size, representativeness, etc.).
- Corpus annotation (tagging, parsing, other types of annotation).
- Data retrieval (software tools, concordances, wildcards, keywords, word lists, etc.).
- Data analysis (quantitative and qualitative analyses, normalized frequencies, frequency distribution, statistical significance).
- Applications of corpora for the linguistic analysis of English.
- Hands-on demonstrations with a selection of corpora.

TEACHING METHODS

- Lectures on the role of corpus linguistics as a framework/methodology for linguistic investigation.
- Seminars and hands-on sessions with software tools and corpora for text analysis (available at computer clusters and via internet).
- Oral presentations of the students' case studies.
- eLearning platform for summative and formative assessment.
- Handouts will be provided to accompany lectures and seminars.

ASSESSMENT

First opportunity:

- 15% Active participation in the sessions. Please note that attendance is compulsory.
- 55% Exercises and programmed readings.
- 30% Oral presentation of a case study. Students will have to provide a hand-out and a PowerPoint presentation.

Exercises as well as the hand-out and the PowerPoint presentation for the case study will be submitted via the teaching platform.

Second opportunity:

Students will have to repeat only those parts (exercises and case study) in which they did not reach a pass in the first opportunity. In the second opportunity the case study will be submitted as a written essay (between 2,000-3,000 words, excluding references).

Students officially exempt from class attendance:

Students will have to hand in all course exercises (60%) and submit an essay on a case study (between 2,000-3,000 words, excluding references) (40%).

All exercises and tests will be done in English. Overall correctness in language and in the use of formal conventions is indispensable. Therefore, grammatical and orthographic mistakes will be penalised.

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aarts, J., P. de Haan & N. Oostdijk (eds.). 1993. *English Language Corpora: Design, Analysis and Exploitation*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Baker, P. 2010. *Sociolinguistics and Corpus Linguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
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- Biber, D. & R. Reppen (eds.). 2015. *The Cambridge Handbook of English Corpus Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cantos, P. 2011. *Statistical Methods in Language and Linguistic Research*. London: Equinox.
- Hoffmann, S., S. Evert, N. Smith, D. Lee & Y. Berglund Prytz. 2008. *Corpus Linguistics with BNCweb - a Practical Guide*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.

- Hunston, Susan. 2002. *Corpora in Applied Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kennedy, G. 1998. *An Introduction to Corpus Linguistics*. London: Longman.
- Kilgariff, A. & G. Grefenstette. 2003. Introduction to the Special Issue on the Web as Corpus. *Computational Linguistics* 29/3: 333-347.
- Lavid, J. 2005. *Lenguaje y nuevas tecnologías. Nuevas perspectivas, métodos y herramientas para el lingüista del siglo XXI*. Madrid: Cátedra.
- Lindquist, H. 2009. *Corpus Linguistics and the Description of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Lüdeling, A. & M. Kytö (eds.). 2008. *Corpus Linguistics. An International Handbook*. Volume I. Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter.
- McEnery, T. & A. Wilson. 1996. *Corpus Linguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- McEnery, T., R. Xiao & Y. Tono. 2006. *Corpus-Based Language Studies. An Advanced Resource Book*. London: Routledge.
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- Mukherjee, J. 2004. "The State of the Art in Corpus Linguistics: Three book-length perspectives." *English Language and Linguistics* 8/1: 103-119.
- Oakes, M. 1998. *Statistics for Corpus Linguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Sinclair, J. 1991. *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stubbs, M. 1996. *Text and Corpus Analysis*. Oxford: Blackwell.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students are expected to complete all assignments and readings suggested by the lecturers, and to come to the sessions prepared to discuss them. Students must visit the eLearning platform for the course regularly. Students are expected to check their university email on a regular basis: announcements and last-minute changes will be notified via the teaching platform.

Academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion or fabrication of results) will not be tolerated and will be penalised.

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