

<b>Subject Code</b>	ENGL539
<b>Subject Title</b>	English Semantics and Lexis
<b>Credit Value</b>	3
<b>Level</b>	5
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	N/A
<b>Objectives</b>	This subject aims to develop students' knowledge of English morphology and semantics. It helps students to understand the linguistic concepts and their relationships to form, meaning and context of word use. It also trains students' skills in using language corpora and other online resources to investigate and generalize trends in modern vocabulary.
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <p><b>Category A: Professional/academic knowledge and skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand the diachronic and synchronic change of English vocabulary;</li> <li>analyze and describe morphological structure and semantic meaning of English words;</li> <li>apply concepts learnt to lexical analysis in various contexts and for different purposes;</li> <li>use corpora to investigate and develop lexical knowledge.</li> </ol> <p><b>Category B: Attributes for all-roundedness</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>display critical and creative thinking in reading;</li> <li>develop a range of strategies for life-long learning through reading and computer research.</li> </ol>
<b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b>	<p>Students will explore these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historical development of English vocabulary</li> <li>Morphological study: word formation</li> <li>Semantic study: word meaning and sense relations</li> <li>Metaphor and figurative speech</li> <li>Word in context</li> <li>Neologisms and word change</li> <li>Investigating vocabulary through corpora</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	Interactive lectures, seminars and group discussions, supplemented by use of Blackboard discussion and online corpus study.

<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed					
			a	b	c	d	e	f
	1. In-class test	40%	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	2. Seminar presentation	20%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	3. Term paper	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total	100%							
<p>The assessments are designed to develop students' interest, sensitivity and ability in lexical study. The in-class test is to check students' understanding of basic concepts of semantics and morphology, and their ability to apply the knowledge to the analysis of word structure and word meaning in isolation and in context. The oral presentation provides students a chance to appreciate good use of words in media. It assesses how students can apply lexical knowledge in practice, and demonstrate that they understand words phonologically, morphologically, syntactically and semantically. The presentation is teamwork and can stimulate peer discussions and cooperative learning. The term paper is a brief report on individual lexical research through a particular method.</p>								
<b>Student Study Effort Required</b>	Class contact:							
	▪ Lecture		39 Hrs.					
	▪ Seminar		0 Hrs.					
	Other student study effort:							
	▪ Preparing for seminar presentations by studying on-line teacher-provided materials		58 Hrs.					
	▪ Other private study		23 Hrs.					
	Total student study effort		120 Hrs.					
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p><b>Recommended Textbook</b>  Jackson H. &amp; E. Z. Amvela (2007). <i>Words, Meaning and Vocabulary: An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology</i>. London: Continuum.</p> <p><b>Recommended reading</b>  Aitchison, J. (2003). <i>Words in the mind</i>. London: Blackwell.  Baker, P. (ed. ) (2009). <i>Contemporary corpus linguistics</i>. London: Continuum.  Béjoint, H. (2010). <i>The lexicography of English</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p>							

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