COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Introduction to Semantics / Semantikos įvadas	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Audronė Šolienė **Other(s):**	Department of English Philology Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
BA	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Seminars	Autumn semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: Standard reference categories of linguistic description	**Additional requirements (if any):** No

Course (module) volume in credits	Total students' workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5 ECTS	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The aim of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental concepts and tools of analysis in semantics. This course will be devoted to hands-on semantic analysis of several semantic domains. It will equip the participants with a methodology which they could use in their own work, on any language and any aspect of language (lexicon, grammar, discourse, etc.). The course unit also aims to develop the following competences:

Generic competences:

1. **Responsibility**: the ability to set goals and make plans, and take responsibility for them:
   1.1. Will be able to set goals, choose and use resources necessary for the completion of a task, plan their time and follow deadlines;
   1.2. will be able to take responsibility for their work / study results and learn from mistakes.
2. **Problem solving:** the ability to solve problems by relying on analytical, critical, and creative thinking:
   2.1. Will be able to identify problems and challenges in their own and related fields;
   2.2. will be able to identify problems by finding, analysing, and critically assessing relevant information, generate new ideas, choose the most optimal solutions.
3. **Openness to change**: the ability to understand the necessity of change and the intention to constantly improve oneself:
   3.1. Will be familiar not only with the changes taking place in their field of interest, but also their causes, challenges, opportunities;
   3.2. will be open to new ideas, strive to change, and be creative and innovative.

Subject-specific competences:

4. **Essential knowledge and skills in linguistics**: perception of language as a phenomenon and perception of linguistics as a scientific discipline:
   4.1. Will know, understand and be able to define linguistics as a scientific discipline and to properly use and interpret the basic concepts and terms of linguistics;
   4.2. will acquire knowledge of the main branches and methods of linguistics.
5. **Understanding and analysis of the English language system at various levels:** phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, etc.:

5.1. Will gain knowledge of the English language system;
5.2. Will be able to describe, analyse and interpret English-language phenomena at various levels (phonetic, morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, language development, etc.) and compare them with Lithuanian or another language using appropriate terminology and methods.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Upon successful completion of the course, students - will know, understand and be able to define semantics as a scientific discipline and to properly use and interpret the basic concepts and terms of semantics; - will acquire knowledge of the main branches of semantics; - will learn to recognize and identify different features of word meaning and a variety of semantic relations between words and sentences. - will gain knowledge of the English language system; - will be able to describe, analyse and interpret the English language at semantic level and compare with Lithuanian or another language using appropriate terminology and methods.	Explanatory and problem-based teaching, seminars, individual and group work, and self-study of theoretical literature. Homework analysis and discussion.	Cumulative assessment: • 40 % – mid-term test (open-ended and closed questions); • 50 % – exam (open-ended and closed questions) • 10 % – active participation in discussions, completion of the assigned tasks.

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	**Contact hours**	**Self-study hours**	**Assignments**
1. Introduction. Basic concepts. Expression meaning. Utterance meaning. Communicative meaning.			4				**4**	**6**	S. Löbner. 2002. *Understanding Semantics.* OUP. Ch. 1. Meaning and semantics. 3-18; J. I. Saeed. 2003. *Semantics.* Blackwell. 1-10, 53-63.
2. Domain of semantics. Lexical semantics. Grammatical/syntactical semantics.			2				**2**	**8**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 1. S. Löbner. 2002 *Understanding Semantics.* OUP. Ch. 2. Descriptive, social and expressive meaning. 19-38.
3. Sentences. Utterances. Propositions.			2				**2**	**4**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 2. J. I. Saeed.2003. 12-15.
4. Reference. Sense. Denotation.			2				**2**	**4**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 3. J. I. Saeed. 2003.12-17, 23-30.

5. Referring expressions.			2				**2**	**4**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 4.
6. Mid-term test.			2				**2**	**8**	Revision of Hurford & Heasley. 2007. Unit 1-4, Löbner Ch.1-2, Saeed p.1-10, 12-17, 23-30, 53-63.
7. Predicates. Predicates and arguments. Predicates, referring expressions and universe of discourse.			4				**4**	**8**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 5-6.
8. Deixis and Definiteness.			2				**2**	**4**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 7. J. I. Saeed. 2003. 181-189.
9. Words and things: extensions and prototypes.			2				**2**	**4**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 8. J. I. Saeed. 2003. 37-38.
10. Sense properties and stereotypes.			2				**2**	**8**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 9.
11. Sense relations: identity and similarity of sense, oppositeness and dissimilarity of sense.			2				**2**	**8**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 10-11. J. I. Saeed. 2003.63-79.
12. A notation for simple propositions. Connectives AND, OR and BUT.			4				**4**	**16**	J. R. Hurford & B. Heasley. 2007. Unit 12-15.
13. Revision for the final test			2				**2**	**16**	Revision of the materials studied.
Total			**32**				**32**	**98**	

Assessment strategy	**Weight, %**	**Deadline**	**Assessment criteria**
The final grade will consist of: • mid-term test (including theoretical questions and practical exercises) (40 %)	40%	Mid-term (Week 7 - 8)	Ten -point assessment scale: 10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly. 9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly. 8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly. 7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly. 6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly. 5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met.
• final examination (including theoretical questions and practical exercises) (50 %).	50%	Examination session	
• in-class participation	10 %	Throughout the course	Consistent participation in seminar discussions, appropriate use of metalanguage, argumentative, rigorous critical thinking, error-free academic English, and completion of practical assignments.
			Additional remarks: The course instructor reserves the right to modify homework assignments, the sequence of seminar topics, and the dates of seminars outlined in the course syllabus to facilitate students' learning process and make up for missed seminars or topics that were not covered due to students' poor preparation for seminars, etc. For the guidelines on AI use, please refer to the official VU document: EN_Translation_Dirbtinio_intelekto_naudojimo_Vilniaus_universitete_gairės.pdf

			Attendance requirements: Seminars are mandatory. A student who deliberately misses 35% (6 seminars out of 16) or more of the seminars is not allowed to take the final exam and automatically receives a no-pass ("Neleista laikyti" – "Not allowed to take the examination"). The student is not allowed to retake the exam if they have not been admitted to the exam during the main examination period. • If the final cumulative mark is below 4.5, the student is eligible to retake the exam within the first two weeks of the spring semester. The retake will cover all material studied during the semester.

Author	**Year of publication**	**Title**	**Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication**	**Publishing place and house or web link**
Compulsory reading				
1. Cruse, Alan	2000	*Meaning in Language. An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*		Oxford: Oxford University Press
2. Hurford, James R., Heasley, Brendan, Smith, Michael B.	2007	*Semantics: a coursebook*		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
3. Löbner, Sebastian	2002	*Understanding Semantics*		Oxford: Oxford University Press
4. Saeed, John I.	2003	*Semantics*		Blackwell Publishing
Optional reading				
1. Goddard, Cliff	1998	*Semantic Analysis. A Practical Introduction.*		Oxford: Oxford University Press
2. Gregory, Howard	2000	*Semantics.*		London & New York: Routledge
3. Crystal, David	1998	*The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
4. Kroeger, Paul	2018	*Analyzing Meaning: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*		Berlin: Language Science Press.

The course was updated on 9 April 2026.