

W-Seminar - Beschreibung

Lehrkraft: OStR A. Schöner Leitfach: Englisch Jahrgang: 2020/22

Rahmenthema: „Love the Lingo“: The fascinating world of languages (with special focus on the history and structure of the English language)

Begründung und Zielsetzung des Seminars:

"Language" is a vital part of our everyday lives. It is something we take for granted and a means of communication we use without thinking too much about it. It is only when we learn foreign languages that we realize what a complicated system of sounds, grammar rules, conventions and signs "language" really is. But what is "language" actually? Why can humans speak? Is women's use of language different from men's? How do you learn languages and according to what principles do they function? How did languages evolve and how many languages are there? Why has English become a global language? What does English have to do with German, Latin, French and the Scandinavian languages? What makes learning specific languages simple or difficult for us? How did "standard languages" emerge and what is actually "correct" German/English/French, etc.? Can monkeys be taught to actually speak? ... - Linguistics, the science of languages, deals with these and many other questions.

In this course, participants should first become acquainted with the main areas and the terminology of linguistics and then explore this exciting subject through many concrete examples, especially from English, but also from other (non-)European languages.

Thus, participants will not only learn about an important part of every course of study focusing on a (foreign) language, but will also gain a better understanding of the process of language learning itself and of ways of dealing with common problems encountered in this process.

The course language is English.

Mögliche Themen für Seminararbeiten:

- Common problems of German learners of English as a foreign language and what you can do about them
- Celtic languages in the UK: Language Politics in the past, present and future
- German/Latin/French/Spanish influences on the English language
- Neologisms: the formation of new words in English/German/etc.
- Pidgin English and Creoles
- Proverbs in English and German: A comparison
- Idiomatic Expressions in English and German: A comparison
- Language and the Internet: Emoticons, Netiquette, etc.
- Etc.

Weitere Bemerkungen zum geplanten Verlauf des Seminars:

After general input during 11/1, participants will choose the topic that they would like to work on for their „Seminararbeit“. Regular feedback and assistance will be provided. There will also be an introduction into research with a special focus on languages by staff of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.

Leistungserhebung:

There will be a test at the end of 11/1. Participants are also required to write a short outline of the topic of their „Seminararbeit“ and present their current state of work at the end of 11/2. The final grade of the seminar, however, will be given on participant's „Seminararbeit“ and on its presentation to the seminar in 12/1.