**Course title:** Corpus Linguistics  
**Course year:** 2022/2023  
**Semester:** 2  
**Course code:** 54126  
**Scientific sector:** L-LIN/12  
**Lecturer:** Dr. Cecilia Lazzeretti – Dr. Graham Francis Burton  
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**Module:** /  
**Lecturer other module:** /  
**Credits:** 2  
**Total lecturing hours:** 30  
**Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:** 6  
**Office hours:** to be announced during the course  
**Attendance:** optional  
**Teaching language:** English  
**Propaedeutic course:** None  

**Course description:**  
Corpus linguistics (CL) is an empirical approach to language analysis based on representative samples of authentic, naturally occurring language stored in electronic format. It can be used for the study of grammar, discourse, different social actors and processes, as well as in language learning and teaching. Corpora can reveal, for instance, how frequently a specific word is used, or how patterns of meaning are developed through the use of sequences of words. Combining theoretical lectures and practical sessions, this course will offer a general introduction to CL, enabling students to familiarise with different aspects of this methodology.

**Specific educational objectives:**  
This course introduces students to language corpora as a resource for linguistic analysis. Students will learn the basics of corpus building and corpus annotation, as well as key techniques, such as collocation and keywords. They will also learn how to apply these techniques in their own research, from the generation of a research hypothesis to the analysis and description of the results obtained. They will also explore some possible applications of corpora for language learning and teaching.

**List of topics covered:**  
The core topics will include:  
- Why use a corpus  
- Introduction to collocation and keywords  
- Corpus based discourse analysis  
- How do you build a corpus  
- Corpus linguistics and sociolinguistics  
- Corpus linguistics and descriptions of language for language learning and teaching  
- Corpus linguistics and syllabus design
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<th><strong>Teaching format:</strong></th>
<th>Lectures and hands-on, workshop-like lessons</th>
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<td><strong>Learning outcomes:</strong></td>
<td>On completion of the course, students will:</td>
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| **Knowledge and understanding** | • have a general knowledge of corpus linguistics as an empirical approach to language analysis  
• have an understanding of how corpus linguistics can help to develop and test hypotheses about language  
• have an understanding of corpus linguistics approaches applied to discourse analysis and sociolinguistics  
• have an understanding of the relevance of corpus linguistics to language teaching and learning |
| **Applying knowledge and understanding** | • be able to use different tools in use for the investigation of corpora (desktop vs. web-based tools)  
• be able to apply key techniques of corpus linguistics, such as collocation and keywords  
• be able to recognize and develop strategies and practices to deal with the issues surrounding corpus collection, storage, annotation and analysis  
• be able to use corpus linguistic analyses to inform descriptions of language for teaching purposes  
• be able to plan a syllabus or aspects of a syllabus based on corpus data |
| **Making judgements** | • be able to make informed decisions about the applications of corpus linguistics techniques  
• be able to interpret corpus data, highlighting implications and/or limitations |
| **Communication skills** | • be able to report on corpus data, showing an awareness of the terminology in use  
• be able to describe and motivate methodological choices |
| **Learning skills** | • be able to draw on knowledge and feedback from the course to improve their research methodologies and competence for linguistic analysis  
• acquire the skills necessary to carry out corpus analysis autonomously  
• be able to use corpus linguistics critically to investigate existing descriptions of language |
| **Assessment:** | **In-course:** portfolio of tasks completed during the course  
**Summative:** a corpus analysis project, to be agreed with the lecturers |
| **Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:** | **In-course assessments:** adequate completion of tasks carried out during the course and evidence of reflection and progression.  
**Final assignment:** understanding of theoretical notions, command of techniques for searching, analysing and
reporting corpus data, capacity for original thought and argumentation.


| **Supplementary readings:** | Materials will be provided during the course. |