

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	MEANING IN INTERACTION		
MODULE CODE	LG1106 (L4)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- Familiarize students with a range of pragmatic approaches and theories (speech acts, conversational implicature, politeness), providing them with an introduction to the pragmatic and communicative functions of language, rather than just grammatical and semantic structures.
- Show how language operates not just at the level of the sentence and utterance, but at the level of text and discourse, including the use of persuasive language (rhetoric) and the relation between language and ideology.
- Teach students to apply pragmatic and discourse theory to linguistic data in the analysis of short examples and texts, based on the understanding of a range of relevant literature.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

This module will explore different dimensions of and different approaches to 'meaning', focusing on aspects of meaning at the level of text and discourse. The content of the module may include but not be limited to pragmatic theory (exploring the relation between linguistic expressions, language users and contexts) and the analysis of short texts (newspapers, political discourse, forensic texts, etc.) with the instruments of critical discourse analysis, conversation analysis and rhetorical theory.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Recognise the main concepts and theories in the fields of pragmatics and discourse analysis.
2. Use a range of pragmatic concepts relevantly and accurately in order to analyse short excerpts and texts
3. Identify the pragmatic goals of text producers.
4. Discuss and evaluate the existing academic literature on specific topics in pragmatics and discourse analysis.
5. Produce writing of acceptable standard (as detailed in the English Language and Linguistics study skills handbook).

TEACHING METHODS

The module will employ both formal lectures and seminars which will include discussion, question/answer sequences, problem-solving activities, as well as theoretical engagement with, and critical application of the ideas introduced. Students will learn through practical engagement with various tasks, as well as by discussing relevant approaches in the literature. Teaching and learning on this module may also comprise class and group discussions, class-based group work and face-to-face feedback with the tutor. There is an expectation that students will engage interactively with the tutor and their peers during the sessions, and undertake additional reading and preparatory work outside of the lecture and seminar sessions.

Weekly seminars are designed to maximize opportunities for in-class discussion of concepts and theories that form the object of module assessment, as well as introduce some of the relevant academic literature. A wide range of audio-visual material will be used to illustrate theory and help students apply theoretical frameworks to real-life situations. Students will also be required to prepare certain topics by reading relevant literature in order to summarize, discuss and evaluate existing academic research in class. Independent work includes library work, doing research for assignments and writing them up, as well as self-managed group-work, in preparation of joint presentations on various topics in class.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through one Examination and one Essay.