

You study different research projects that are running in the department, interview the researchers, read background literature and write a report. You learn about exciting international projects that are at the frontier of science.

You learn the basic skills how to make your own program and run these from a command line. We gently submerge you into the world of Python. You learn the basics of programming in Python applied to processing text.

Students will write a research proposal, present that orally and submit a written version. The group will read and discuss this work. The presenter will use the inputs to improve his proposal and finalise it.

Writing a paper outline forces you to define the boundaries of your research. Secondly, it helps to organize your ideas and to present them in a cohesive and logical form. And of course you will very much profit from detailed feedback.

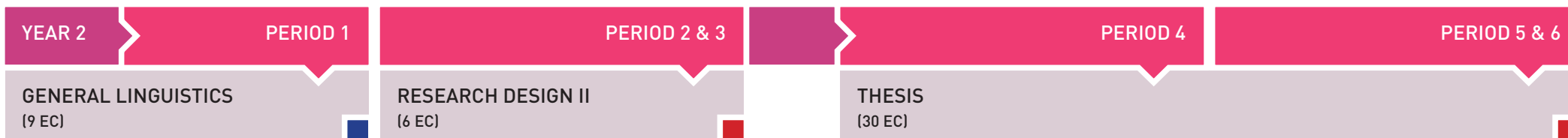


The law is expressed and implemented in and through language. Evidence in a court is mainly linguistic in nature, and so are some unlawful acts. This course will explore topics including 1) the linguistic issues involved when police interviews are transformed into written statements, 2) language in the courtroom and 3) vulnerable witnesses in the legal process.

Choose your optional course. You base your choice on your own interests and the specialty that you wish to develop. You can take this course at another faculty or even at another university, provided that you obtain permission from the Examination Board Graduate School.

Many different resources and toolkits for processing text already exist and can be used freely. You learn what these tools are, how to use them, the good features and the less good features. Programming skills are not required to use these tools.

In this course we will examine different methods that are currently used to analyze the authorship of texts (such as letters of threat, text messages, online reviews). Students will choose a project of their interest and test different methods.



FL3: LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS (6 EC)

It is not just in criminal cases that forensic linguists can be of help. In this course we examine cases where ambiguities in legislation or in the language used by companies have led to law suits (e.g. involving car dealers, insurance companies, commercial manufacturers). You will learn about different types of cases and methods used to address the linguistic issues involved.

TUTORIAL FL: CURRENT ISSUES (9 EC)

In this tutorial you will work on current issues in the field of forensic linguistics. You will, for instance, work with faculty on current cases, be involved in research on methods for investigating case work, or do research on police practices and write an advisory report.

MORE INFORMATION

Forensic Linguistics is a specialization of the Research master Linguistics and is fully embedded in the program.

In the schedule you find the program for the Research Master Linguistics with specialization Forensic Linguistics.

- LEGEND:**
- Obligatory for all students of VU University research masters in humanities.
 - Obligatory for all Research Master Linguistics students.
 - Courses in the specialization Forensic Linguistics.
 - Optional; can be chosen outside of the specialization (programming in Python and Language processing toolkits are suggested courses that are offered by the specialization Linguistic Engineering).