

3-year evaluation of ENG341 Selected Topic in English Linguistics II (2021–2023)

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ENG341 is a 10 ECTS Master's course in English linguistics. The content of the course varies from year to year: Irish English in Context in 2021, Corpus Linguistics and Sociolinguistics in 2022, and Child language acquisition in 2023.

The main learning outcomes are that the student “has detailed insight into the theoretical and methodological approaches within the field covered by the course and be familiar with current research in this field”, “can apply his or her knowledge and skills in teaching, for the dissemination of research and other information purposes” and “is highly skilled in expressing academic ideas in written and spoken English”. In terms of general competence, the student, on completion of the course, “is capable of developing his or her own competence and specializing in an independent manner”.

The teaching of ENG341 consists of 16 hours of lectures over 8 weeks. In 2021 and 2023, all lectures were delivered onsite, whereas in 2022, most lectures were delivered remotely due to the lecturer not being based in Bergen.

The assessment form of the course is a supervised term paper. Thus, the students' attendance of supervision meetings is an obligatory activity. Supervision meetings can be held in groups or individually, and they are usually based on a draft of the term paper. The number of students who took the exam varied quite a bit: eight students in 2021, four students in 2022 and 15 students in 2023. The relatively high number of students in 2023 may have to do with the “perceived” relevance of the course content for Lektorstuderter (but see below). The average grade was C in 2021 and 2022, and B in 2023.

In 2021, the course was offered by a part timer, which is why there is no course report available (the compilation of reports should be included in the contract). According to the reports for 2022 and 2023, the course worked well for active and interested students. A recurring challenge for the course, which is recommended for Lektorstuderter, is the scheduling and execution of supervision. We expect this problem to disappear with the implementation of the redesigned Lektorprogrammet. Another challenge for the course (as for any course) is the students' engagement as well as the perceived usefulness of the content for their respective study programs and, ultimately, their future lives.

Since only a fraction of the students participated in the end-of-term evaluation, it is impossible to say whether the students' concerns or requests are representative. Note that the 2022 student evaluation was not available to the instructor when filing her report, and, in 2023, only three

students filled in the evaluation form: they request access to previously submitted term papers on the topic, which would violate information privacy; also, there are no previously submitted term papers on topics that are offered for the first time (as was the case in 2021–2023). The students also say that the topic, Child language acquisition, was generally not relevant for MA students, and it was not relevant for Lektorstuderter because their students are 13-19 years of age, i.e. outside the child age range.