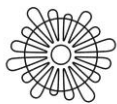


## Syllabus

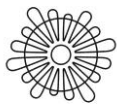
<b>Department</b>	<b>Department of English Studies</b>						<b>Year</b>	2025/2026	
<b>Course</b>	Forensic linguistics						<b>ECTS</b>	4	
<b>Study programme</b>	English Studies								
<b>Level of study programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated		<input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate		
<b>Type of study programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double major		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University		<input type="checkbox"/> Professional		<input type="checkbox"/> Specialized		
<b>Year of study</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2		<input type="checkbox"/> 3		<input type="checkbox"/> 4		<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<b>Semester</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter <input type="checkbox"/> Summer		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I		<input type="checkbox"/> II		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> III	<input type="checkbox"/> IV	<input type="checkbox"/> V
			<input type="checkbox"/> VI		<input type="checkbox"/> VII		<input type="checkbox"/> VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> IX	<input type="checkbox"/> X
<b>Status of the course</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compulsory		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elective		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elective course offered to students from other departments		<b>Teaching Competencies</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>Workload</b>	15	L	15	S	0	E	<b>Internet sources for e-learning</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>Location and time of instruction</b>	Friday, 9-11 (room 143)					<b>Language(s) in which the course is taught</b>		English	
<b>Course start date</b>	3 October 2025					<b>Course end date</b>		23 January 2026	
<b>Enrolment requirements</b>	/								
<b>Course coordinator</b>	Sanja Škifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor								
<b>E-mail</b>	sskific@unizd.hr					<b>Consultation hours</b>	Monday, 9:00-10:00 or by appointment via e-mail		
<b>Course instructor</b>	Sanja Škifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor								
<b>E-mail</b>	sskific@unizd.hr					<b>Consultation hours</b>	Monday, 9:00-10:00 or by appointment via e-mail		
<b>Assistant/ Associate</b>									
<b>E-mail</b>						<b>Consultation hours</b>			
<b>Assistant/ Associate</b>									
<b>E-mail</b>						<b>Consultation hours</b>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lectures		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminars		<input type="checkbox"/> Exercises		<input type="checkbox"/> E-learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Field work	



Mode of teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual assignments	<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia and network	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Learning outcomes	By the end of the course students will acquire basic knowledge in the field of forensic linguistics and will be able to: -define and differentiate between basic concepts in the field of forensic linguistics -analyze the relationship between forensic linguistics and other linguistic disciplines, and the law -identify the characteristics of the language of the law and ambiguity in legal texts - describe the factors that contribute to autorship attribution - identify patterns of language use in processes of collecting evidence - interpret the characteristics of different forms of language crime - apply the acquired knowledge on the analysis of different examples of legal texts, linguistic evidence and language use in collecting evidence and court procedures				
Learning outcomes at the Programme level	Learning outcomes at the level of the programme to which the course contributes include the following: - connect different approaches, perceptions, and knowledge through an interdisciplinary approach - apply a critical and self-critical approach in argumentation - explain language as a form of human activity, as well as the linguistic and non-linguistic factors that enable successful communication - analyze the relationship between identity, language ideology, language politics and language planning				
Assessment criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class attendance	<input type="checkbox"/> Preparation for class	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Research
	<input type="checkbox"/> Practical work	<input type="checkbox"/> Experimental work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminar
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Conditions for permission to take the exam	Regular class attendance and accepted seminar paper. Students are required to write a seminar paper in the field of forensic linguistics, 2000-2500 words in length. Students should propose the topic of the paper (during office hours or via e-mail), find and read the relevant literature for writing the seminar paper. Students should follow the APA referencing style throughout the paper. The first version of the paper should be sent by 9 January 2026.				
Exam periods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter		<input type="checkbox"/> Summer		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Autumn
Exam dates	<a href="https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-i-rokovi">https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-i-rokovi</a>				<a href="https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-rokovi">https://anglistika.unizd.hr/ispitni-rokovi</a>
Course description	Forensic linguistics is a branch of applied linguistics that analyzes spoken and written language in legal and criminal contexts. The basic goal of the course is to introduce students to the three main areas covered by forensic linguistics. These are: analysis of the language of the law (for example, interpretation of lexical ambiguities in legal documents), analysis of the language used in judicial processes (language used by law enforcers), and analysis of different types of linguistic evidence (for example, language idiosyncrasies and discrepancies of witnesses, suspects, and victims). The nature of forensic linguistics is interdisciplinary, and, as such, allows for an insight into the correlation between forensic research and other linguistic disciplines (primarily phonetics, semantics, and sociolinguistic), as well as the legal framework. In accordance with the outlined areas covered by forensic linguistics, the aims of the course include developing students' critical thinking towards language as a form of human behaviour, towards correlation between characteristics of language use and autorship attribution, as well as towards research of language use in legal and criminal				



	contexts as a type of contribution to the regulation of legally acceptable functioning of the wider social community.				
<b>Course content</b>	<p>Lectures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to forensic linguistics (defining the concept of forensic linguistics and the areas that the discipline deals with; the development of forensic linguistics; introduction to legal language and legal discourse)</li> <li>2. Language of the law I (vocabulary, grammar, and style of the language of the law)</li> <li>3. Language of the law II (ambiguity in legal texts)</li> <li>4. Language as forensic evidence I (text as authorship and authorship attribution)</li> <li>5. Language as forensic evidence II (forensic phonetics)</li> <li>6. Language as forensic evidence III (genre and sociolinguistic factors in linguistic variation as forensic evidence)</li> <li>7. Mid-term test</li> <li>8. Language and the law I (court and police)</li> <li>9. Language and the law II (suspects and witnesses)</li> <li>10. Multilingualism and translation in the legal context</li> <li>11. Dealing with linguistic evidence I (forensic text, forensic transcription, and forensic authorship in practice)</li> <li>12. Dealing with linguistic evidence II (forensic linguistic evidence in legal procedures)</li> <li>13. Language crime (threats, perjury, conspiracies, bribery)</li> <li>14. Cybercrime (phishing, spread of hate speech, racism, etc.)</li> <li>15. End-term test</li> </ol> <p>Seminars follow the thematic units covered during the lectures through the analysis of examples of language of the law, authorship attribution, and collection and processing of linguistic evidence.</p>				
<b>Required reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coulthard, Malcolm, Alison May, Rui Sousa-Silva (eds.) 2021. <i>The Routledge Handbook of Forensic Linguistics</i>. London &amp; New York: Routledge. (selected chapters)</li> <li>2. Olsson, John. 2009. <i>Wordcrime: Solving Crime Through Forensic Linguistics</i>. London: Bloomsbury Academic.</li> <li>3. Olson, John &amp; June Luchjenbroers. 2014. <i>Forensic Linguistics</i>. London: Bloomsbury Academic.</li> <li>4. Solan, Lawrence M. &amp; Peter M. Tiersma. 2005. <i>Speaking of Crime: The Language of Criminal Justice</i>. Chicago &amp; London: The Chicago University Press.</li> <li>5. Tiersma, Peter M., Lawrence M. Solan (eds.). 2012. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Language and Law</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (selected chapters)</li> </ol>				
<b>Additional reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kreuz, Roger. 2023. <i>Linguistic Fingerprints: How Language Creates and Reveals Identity</i>. Lanham, MD: Prometheus Books.</li> <li>2. Olsson, John. 2018. <i>More Wordcrime: Solving Crime With Linguistics</i>. London: Bloomsbury Academic.</li> <li>3. Varošanec-Škarić, Gordana. 2019. <i>Forenzična fonetika</i>. Zagreb: IBIS grafika.</li> </ol>				
<b>Internet sources</b>					
<b>Assessment criteria of learning outcomes</b>	Final exam only				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Final written exam		<input type="checkbox"/> Final oral exam		<input type="checkbox"/> Final written and oral exam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only test/homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Test/homework and final exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar paper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminar paper and mid-term and end-term tests/final exam	<input type="checkbox"/> Practical work and final exam
				<input type="checkbox"/> Practical work	<input type="checkbox"/> other forms



<b>Calculation of final grade</b>	Students who pass both the mid-term and the end-term tests do not have to take the final written exam. Their final grade represents a combination of the results of mid-term, end-term and the seminar presentation (mid-term test – 40%, end-term test – 40%, seminar presentation – 20%). Students who do not pass both the mid-term and the end-term tests have to take the final written exam. Their grade represents the combination of the results of the final exam (80%) and the presentation of the seminar paper (20%).	
<b>Grading scale</b>	0%-59%	% Failure (1)
	60%-69%	% Satisfactory (2)
	70%-79%	% Good (3)
	80%-89%	% Very good (4)
	90%-100%	% Excellent (5)
<b>Course evaluation procedures</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student evaluations conducted by the University <input type="checkbox"/> Student evaluations conducted by the Department <input type="checkbox"/> Internal evaluation of teaching <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>Note /Other</b>	<p>In accordance with Art. 6 of the <i>Code of Ethics</i> of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, “the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice.”</p> <p>According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar's <i>Code of Ethics</i>, students are expected to “fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. [...] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. [...]</p> <p>Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted;</li> <li>- various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam; impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results.”</li> </ul> <p>All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the <i>Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar</i> will be applied.</p> <p>In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.</p> <p>This course uses the Merlin system for e-learning, so students are required to have an AAI account.</p>	