

ENG 223 / 223L / 263 Studying twentieth-century English

Spring semester 2017
Mondays, 12.15 - 14.00

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This is an introduction to corpus approaches to the study of the English language in use. We will develop linguistic tools and a methodology for approaching variation and change using corpora. We will then investigate variation and change in written Englishes, using different text types as sources of linguistic evidence.

This course builds on skills and knowledge of English phonology, grammar and sociolinguistics acquired in 100-level courses. It will acquaint students with the thinking and practices of corpus linguistics as applied to language variation and change. It will provide practice in applying empirical linguistic methods to the study of English texts, developing skills which will be useful in writing the bachelor thesis for those opting for ENG 263, and also for further work in English linguistics at the master's level.

Data and suggested bachelor thesis topics will be provided early in the semester.

Textbooks

Hans Lindquist, *Corpus linguistics and the description of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

Christian Mair, *Twentieth-century English. History, variation and standardization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Reading for first class, 17 January

Issues: corpus linguistics and the study of ongoing change in English

Corpus linguistics HL ch. 1 (1-24)

Setting the scene CM ch. 1 (1-11)

Exercise for first class:

Also, you should think of TWO questions about the English language that corpora could be used to study, e.g.:

Is the American use of *do* in *Do you have the book?* entering British and other Englishes?

Further reading

The above may be supplemented by (extracts from) other books and articles. A list will be available at the beginning of the semester.