Optional Language Course

3rd year – 2nd semester (English A/B + American Studies)
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IN BRIEF

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the main concepts and tools used in **corpus-based text analysis**, one of the newest approaches to the study of language in use, regardless of text-type or genre. In fact, most of the linguistic and even literary studies published today are informed by corpus data, gathered according to specific criteria and methodologies, using specialized software.

The course is thus an interdisciplinary one, combining knowledge from linguistics, discourse studies, and natural language processing (computer science), and is structured in three parts:

- **corpus linguistics** – tenets, principles of corpus design, type of corpora in use today;
- **text analysis** – defining *textness*, elements of text cohesion, the notions of text-type (linguistic features), and genre;
- **applied corpus work** – building, analysing, and annotating a corpus using specialized software (AntConc and UAM Corpus Tool).

At the end of this course, you will thus be 'armed' with a series of new concepts and tools that you will be able to use in your future work and analyses (even graduation papers), e.g. understand the difference between *type* and *token*, calculate *type/token ratios* to determine a text's lexical variety, extract *n-grams* and *collocations*, build and annotate corpora of your own.

Examination

- mid-semester test to check understanding of theory;
- practical task: build a corpus and analyse it according to specific criteria.

Other requirements

- access to a computer for practical applications

Further reading:

Biber, D. & Conrad, S. 2019. *Register, Genre, and Style*. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fischer-Starcke, B. 2010. *Corpus Linguistics in Literary Analysis. Jane Austen and her contemporaries.* London: Continuum.

McEnery, T. & Hardie, A. 2012. *Corpus Linguistics: method, theory and practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Meyer, C.F. 2004. *English Corpus Linguistics. An introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Postolea, S. 2015. "Textual corpora in language studies – an overview of their types and uses". În C. Grădinaru, R. Patraș, A. Mironescu, A.-D Bib.iri, Emanuel Grosu (ed.), *From manuscript to e-book*, Editura Universității "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", Iași, pp. 40-47

Postolea, S. 2014. „State-of-the-Art Text Linguistics: Corpus-Analysis Tools". *Philologica Jassyensia*, X/1(19), supliment. pp. 51-59.