Title and Code of Course:
Language and cognition
BHL 9512, MHL 9512

Instructor's Name: Anne Tamm (PhD, habil.)

Instructor's Email Address: tamm.anne@kre.hu

Credit Point Value: **6**	Number of Lessons per Week: **2**	Type of Course: **Seminar** ⊠ **Lecture** ☐	Method of Evaluation: **Oral Examination** ☐ **In-Class Presentation** ☐ **Other** ⊠

Course Description:

We are discussing the key questions of modern linguistics but zoom in on a topic that you can publish as a paper after the course or develop an app or other device. Some questions:

What is language? Does your cat speak? Which animal thinks most like us, and which "speaks" most like us? Does our language shape our thinking or behavior? Do speakers of different languages think differently? If they do, is it an advantage if someone speaks many languages? How did language begin? How to learn a language quickly? What are the similarities between languages? Can we design a language that is easy to learn for everyone? How do we use our language as a tool to manage our relationships?

Bibliography:

(MA and BA level students will have different reading lists; extra reading lists are available also in different languages. Some examples:)

- Everett, D. (2017) *How Language Began: The Story of Humanity's Greatest Invention* Liveright (W.W. Norton).
- Everett, D. (2012) *Language: The Cultural Tool* (2012). Pantheon Books, New York.
- Pinker, S. (1994) The Language Instinct. New York: HarperCollins.
- Steven Pinker, *A nyelvi ösztön (Hogyan hozza létre az elme a nyelvet?)*, ford. Bocz András, Budapest, Typotex, 2006, ISBN 963-9664-04-9 – 2., jav. kiad.
- Pinker, S. (1997) How the Mind Works. New York: Norton
- Pinker, S. (1997): *Hogyan működik az elme*; ford. Csibra Gergely; Osiris, Bp., 2002 (*Osiris tankönyvek*) ISBN 963-389-231-7
- Giardini, F., Fitneva, S., Tamm, A. (2019) Someone told me. MS.