

Discourse and language learning  
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**Objectives:**

To discover and assess some of the main theoretical and methodological contributions of discourse analysis to research into language learning.  
To analyse some samples of specialised discourse and the proposals for L1 and L2 language learning derived from them.  
To analyse ideas about language learning from kinds of studies: contrastive, intergeneric and between different discourse communities.  
To discover the different approaches to the concept of critical literacy and its applications to language teaching.

**Contents:**

1. Conceptual and methodological contributions of discourse analysis to research into language learning.
2. The concept of discourse genre as a unit of research and teaching / learning.
3. A description of specialised communicative practices: the interrelation between discourse, work activity and professional status. Contrastive rhetoric, rhetoric between different discourse communities and different genres.
4. Specific studies of the learning of some types of academic, professional (economics, etc.) and media (press) discourse. Didactic suggestions for training specialised professionals.
5. A sociocultural approach to studies of written comprehension and production. Application of critical discourse analysis to assessment of learning of the reception and the production of discourses.

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**Assessment:**

Students will submit a piece of work of analysis and/or reflection from the reading of different pieces of research already done or from the production of a short, exploratory piece of original research, which may be related to the research work that has to be done for the programme.