Course title: **Applications of language corpora in cognitive linguistics**

Instructor: Sylwester Łodej, PhD

Course format: seminar

Number of hours: 15

Number of ECTS points: 2

Brief course description:

From a cognitive point of view, language is seen as an instrument for storing and processing information. The main objective of cognitive linguistics is to study interaction between language and cognition and language corpora provide empirical evidence for this study.

This is a practical class. It takes you on a linguistic discovery trail into all the central topics relevant to understanding the workings of the human mind as observed through the eyes of conceptual metaphors, polysemy and synonymy. It also looks at the formation of prototypes and contextual constructions. Several varieties of the English are discussed in contrastive analysis, but special attention is paid to American English.

The linguistic data discussed in the present course come from several language corpora which allows students to pinpoint contemporary linguistic structures and processes pertaining to cognitive science as well trace their development from a diachronic perspective. The course offers hands-on training in retrieving empirical corpus data by means of computer text analysis and in applying it in cognitive descriptions.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course the students should

- be able to define the research scope of cognitive corpus linguistics

- be able to identify linguistic structures relevant to the study of cognition

- be able to determine the functionality and applications of selected corpus databases for cognitive research

- be able to form connections between selected theoretical tenets of cognitive linguistics and empirical language data

- be able to carry out corpus queries and retrieve relevant corpus information

- be able to offer preliminary interpretation of the retrieved data