Course preparatory reading for 2018-19

In the first year of your degree you will study some of the basic building blocks of language (its sounds and structures), and how it changes over time and place. The School of English will be able to provide you with some of the required texts for your core module Sounds of English. (See below)

You will pick up your Semester 1 books from Blackwell's University Bookshop during Induction Week. You can purchase your other required texts from the same location or buy them earlier in the summer. If you do wish to purchase your own copy over the summer, you are welcome to, but we will not be able to reimburse you.

Blackwell's University Book shop located on campus runs a Student Price-match promotion. This offer guarantees that they will price-match to Amazon, Waterstones and other on-line retailers; ensuring students get the cheapest UK price on their texts. They also stock 2nd hand books. The shop is located next door to the Department of English, Jessop West. Their contact details are:

Phone: 0114 278211
Email: sheffield@blackwell.co.uk

Autumn 2018

Sounds of English

Structures of English

Varieties of English

Spring 2019

History of English
Suggested further reading before you arrive
For many of you, this may be the first time you have studied Linguistics, especially if you did not take English Language at A-level. So the summer before you arrive is an ideal time to explore what Linguistics is about. The following books are designed to provide an introductory overview of Linguistics. You do not need to buy these books, and they will not be assigned as obligatory set texts for your modules. However, should you choose to do so, we are confident they will provide an accessible and enjoyable insight into the kinds of things you will study here. To help you decide which text(s) you might want, we have indicated what we think each has to offer.

This provides a very accessible guide to the study of variation in British Englishes (it’s aimed at A level students), and provides a gentle introduction to topics covered in the module Varieties of English.

This ‘does what it says on the tin’, providing a useful reference guide for unfamiliar concepts or terminology. Linguistics is a subject that tends to use rather a lot of specialist terminology, which can take a while to get used to. One for Santa’s list?

This is a very general, but very comprehensive overview of contemporary linguistics. It is useful as a reference book to look up unfamiliar concepts or areas of study, as well as a guide to further reading. It is richly illustrated and written in a very accessible and engaging style by one of the UK’s most famous linguists. Highly recommended.

This is a great overview of linguistics with chapters on all areas that you’ll study at Level 1 and beyond. You’ll find it very useful as supplementary reading for Structure of English and Sounds of English in your first year, and then find it gives you a useful overview of other topics you’ll study in more advanced modules in years 2 and 3.

This provides a lively and accessible overview of some of the key topics in linguistics, covering the uniqueness of human language; its structure, acquisition, geographical and social variation, patterns of everyday usage, and its place in contemporary social debates.

Now in its fourth edition, this popular introductory text offers a very accessible overview of key topics in linguistics. It covers the origins of language and the distinctiveness of human versus animal communication. It provides a very digestible yet detailed introduction to the
sounds of language – how they are produced and how they form meaning. It provides a similar overview of key aspects of grammar and word meaning, as well as the way speakers make use of context to create and interpret meaning. The book also provides a solid introduction to sociolinguistics (the study of language variation and change). Highly recommended introductory text.