

STUDY UNIT LIST (MA)

Abbreviations

L = Lecture

S = Seminar (practical class)

O = Obligatory unit

MA IN SEMIOTICS

HOST INSTITUTE

The Department of Russian Language and Literature

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MA PROGRAMME IN SEMIOTICS

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Semiotics is an ancient discipline with a long history, which has gained a firm theoretical foundation during the 19th century and an ever growing significance over the last 50 years. This discipline is now in a period of very intensive, concentrated research and self-identification on the map of contemporary science.

The ELTE interdisciplinary semiotics MA programme educates students to become well-trained specialists in semiotics of culture with a global overview of the various fields of humanities: literary studies, linguistics, philosophy, visual arts and general art studies – including approaches to fine arts, films, theatre and music – and also the most contemporary methods of research synthesized from a semiotic methodological point of view. At the same time, choosing the specific field for diploma work students can gain a specialised knowledge in one subfield of the semiotics of humanities (e.g. literary, visual, musical, theoretical semiotics, ethnosemiotics, etc.). The programme is designed to be flexible to motivate students to find the best Hungarian specialists in the given field and assist them to become involved in international research and dialogues with foreign scholars and lecturers. The curriculum consists of courses on the history and theory of semiotics; language, communication, texts and translation; theory of meaning, logic, argumentation; field studies of cultural, national and special semiotic systems; various forms of applied semiotics and semiotic pragmatics in general. The programme also lays emphasis on the preparation of students for PhD studies to plan their research career.

STRENGTH OF THE PROGRAMME

The semiotics MA program established in Budapest shows the strength of

- an **interdisciplinary** orientation within the humanities;
- the application of the valuable research and methodological results of **classical semiotics** linking them to the most **recent scholarly results** in the discipline;
- equilibrium in teaching **semiotic theory** and its implications in **applied semiotics**;
- flexibility in encouraging students to find their own **subfield** by enabling their **specialisation** (free option possibilities inbuilt in the curriculum);
- forming an **international context** for research and education;

- offering perspectives for students with an MA degree in semiotics to continue with **further studies to acquire a PhD degree** in other directions, not restricted to semiotics.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The labour market for specialists with an MA degree in semiotics includes job opportunities for experts expected to have the skill

- to understand current cultural movements;
- to grasp and describe the developmental logic in contemporary arts and the various forms of intercultural communication both within social interaction and national and international cultural texts;
- to interpret and describe different media and message transfer processes;
- to analyse conflict, argumentation systems and philosophical discourse in any field which can be interpreted from the point of view of sign system constructions;
- to build models, typologies and create system-descriptions.

Also jobs may be found in fields linked to applied semiotics (e.g. sign system translation activities; analysis of behaviour symptoms in the work-place; symptom-interpretation in various social or work groups; activities for handling situations in spheres where special sign systems are involved, etc.).

MA PROGRAMME TITLE

Semiotics

DEGREE AWARDED

Successful graduates of this MA will be awarded a degree in which the following elements will appear:

- the level of the degree the graduate has attained (master; abbreviation: MA);
- the academic discipline the graduate has studied (Semiotics);
- the holder of MA degree will be described as a qualified semiotician in his/her certification.

No specialisation or concentration of study within the MA which the graduate has completed is indicated.

DURATION OF THE PROGRAMME

4 semesters (2 years)

CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

120

GRADUATION, THESIS

THESIS

By writing and defending their thesis, students must demonstrate that they are capable of producing an extended piece of academic writing, putting the synthetic presentation of a topic into the context of international critical literature, and arguing their own views against an expert in the field. The Thesis is defended at the Final Examination. MA students may select the topic of their degree thesis from any of the subject areas taught under the conditions set by the respective departments. Both a theoretical and practical orientation may be selected.

Students are discouraged from writing a thesis on the same topic they have submitted for any previous degree. What qualifies as the same topic is at the discretion of the Programme Director in consultation with the Supervisor.

SUPERVISOR

The Supervisor is the tutor responsible for providing professional help to the students in writing their degree thesis. Supervisors are selected individually by the students from among the tutors (of any rank or position) at the University. Students are allowed to select an external Supervisor – an expert not employed by ELTE – but in such cases they must request the consent of the Programme Director, *in advance*. (The decision of the Programme Director will depend on whether it is possible to find a referee for the proposed thesis within the Institute.) It is *obligatory* for thesis writers to select a Supervisor. The Supervisor aids the work of the thesis writer: they recommend relevant literature and courses, comment on the various drafts of the thesis, suggest changes as necessary, etc. At the same time, they have the right to define the rules of cooperation, e.g., ask for regular consultation, participation at particular courses, the completion of various parts of the thesis by given deadlines, the reading of specific studies, books, etc. Should students fail to observe these conditions, the Supervisor has the right to deny crediting for the Tutorial Seminar and/or withdraw from the duties of supervision. The precise tasks of the Supervisor may be determined more specifically by the departments. If the Supervisor, as a result of impediment, cannot continue the advisory work, students may choose a deputy supervisor (with the consent of the Programme Director), whose rights and responsibilities are the same as those of the original Supervisor.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Length: minimum 100,000 characters of continuous text (including spaces but not including the cover page, contents and bibliography), 1.5 lines, font: Times New Roman, size: 12, one bound copy and one other loose bound. The cover page should contain the name of the author, the title of the work, the name of the supervisor, the university, faculty and MA programme, and the date of submission.

EVALUATION

Evaluation is given on a five-grade scale, 1 to 5 (five being the top grade), taking into consideration the scientific results and the logic of their presentation, the linguistic, stylistic formulation and the range and depth of the critical literature consulted and involved in the argumentation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE MA PROGRAMME

- documentation demonstrating the completion of all courses (called an Absolutorium);
- the submission and defence of the thesis with a grade of at least 2 and a successful examination in the broader thematics of the material in the thesis (at the Final Examination, see also the other requirements for the final examination in detail).

CONDITION REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAMINATION

- absolutorium
- thesis submitted
- certification from the University showing all materials have been returned

EVALUATION OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION AND THE DEGREE GRADE

It consists of two parts, both oral:

- a) the defense of the thesis
- b) examination on the basis of open questions previously listed from which examination questions are selected

The final examination result is the average of the marks achieved in the two parts.

The degree grade is the average of the marks received for the thesis and at the final examination.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr. Katalin Kroó, professor, Department of Russian Language and Literature

LIST OF COURSES

I. FUNDAMENTAL COURSES (10 CREDITS)

| Name of the course with codes (BMI-) | Semester | Type of class / Assessment | Obligatory/ Elective course | Hour per semester = 45-minute sessions | Credit |
|---|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| ENGSEMIO-100 Introduction to Semiotics (The History and Theory of Semiotics) I. | 1 | L Exam | o | 30 | 5 |
| ENGSEMIO-101 Introduction to Semiotics (The History and Theory of Semiotics) II. | 2 | L Exam | o | 30 | 5 |

HOURS: 60

II. BASIC COURSES (27 CREDITS)

Language, Communication, Texts;

Cultural Semiotics;

National / Hungarian Sign Systems (Comparatistics), Applied Semiotics.

| Language, Communication, Texts (9 credits) | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|---|----|---|
| ENGSEMIO-200 Intercultural Communication Studies: Concepts, Theories and Research | 1 | L Exam | o | 60 | 4 |
| ENGSEMIO-201 Literary and Semiotic Theories Conceptualised in Text Analyses | 2 | L Exam | o | 30 | 5 |

| Cultural Semiotics (12 credits) | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|---|----|---|
| ENGSEMIO-210 Myths, Tales, Legends, Narratives and Cultural Thinking | 1 | L Exam | o | 30 | 4 |
| ENGSEMIO-211 Fundamentals of Music History – Semiotics of Music | 1 | L Exam | o | 30 | 4 |
| ENGSEMIO-212 New Art History and Semiotics | 2 | L Exam | o | 30 | 4 |
| National / Hungarian Sign Systems (Comparatistics) Applied Semiotics (6 credits) | | | | | |
| ENGSEMIO-220 Semiotics of Culture I. (Semiotics of National / Hungarian Culture) | 1 | L Exam | o | 30 | 3 |
| ENGSEMIO-221 Semiotics and Identity Constructions | 4 | S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |

HOURS: 240

III.

Special Courses: 53 credits

Semiotic Semantics, Theory of Meaning, Logic;
Semiotic Syntactics, Sign Systems;
Semiotic Pragmatics, the Use of Signs, Signalling Practice;
Special Sign Systems, Professional Practice.

1. Obligatory courses: 44 credits

| Semiotic Semantics, Theory of meaning, Logic (10 credits) | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------|---------------------|----|---|
| ENGSEMIO-300 Philosophy of Language / Theories of Sign and Meaning | 2 | L Exam | o | 30 | 6 |
| ENGSEMIO-301 Logic – Reasoning a) Logic Seminar / Logic Lecture b) Logic and Reasoning | 3 | S Seminar grade | a/b: fixed elective | 30 | 4 |
| Semiotic Syntactics, Sign Systems (10 credits) | | | | | |
| ENGSEMIO-310 Semiotics of Culture II. (Topoi and Motifs in World Literature / Culture) | 1 | S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 4 |
| ENGSEMIO-311 Picture / Visual Text Interpretation | 3 | S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |
| ENGSEMIO-312 Semiotics of Culture III. (Semiotic Text Reading and Interpretation: Literature, Theatre, Film / Semiotics of Authors) | 3–4 | S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |
| Semiotic Pragmatics, the Use of Signs, Signalling Practice (10 credits) | | | | | |
| ENGSEMIO-320 Culture and Communication – | 2 | S Seminar | o | 60 | 5 |

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|---|--------------|-----------------------|---|----|---|
| Skills for intercultural communication / Researching Intercultural Communication | | grade | | | |
| ENGSEMIO-321 Discourse and Culture | 3 | S Seminar grade | o | 60 | 5 |
| Special Sign Systems (14 credits) | | | | | |
| ENGSEMIO-330 Cultural Semiotics IV. (Poetological / Semiotic text interpretation – comparatistics) | 2. and 3. | S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |
| ENGSEMIO-331 Cultural Semiotics V. (Sign Systems in Cultural Texts) | 4 | L Exam | o | 30 | 5 |
| ENGSEMIO-332 Period Paradigms and Period Changes in Music / Art History | 4 | L Exam | o | 30 | 4 |
| ENGSEMIO-333 Methodological Seminar on Semiotic Analysis in Critical Writing (Individual consultation) | 4 | S Seminar grade | o | 15 | 2 |

HOURS: 375

2. Obligatory elective special courses: 9 credits (60–90 hours)

Preferences for fields of choice for elective courses:

Semiotic Semantics, Theory of Meaning, Logic; Semiotic Syntactics, Sign Systems; Semiotic Pragmatics, the Use of Signs, Signalling Practice; Special Sign Systems.

a) Any semiotic-oriented or cultural study course from the Faculty of Humanities can be chosen. Previous consultation with the director of the Semiotics MA programme is obligatory.

b) Special courses on semiotics can be chosen

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|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|----|---|
| ENGSEMIO-400 Special Semiotic Course 1. | 4 | L Exam / S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |
| ENGSEMIO-401 Special Semiotic Course 2. | 4 | L Exam / S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |
| ENGSEMIO-402 Special Semiotic Course 3. | 4 | L Exam / S Seminar grade | o | 30 | 3 |

IV. FREE ELECTIVE COURSES: 10 CREDITS (60–90 hours)

The credit requirements may be fulfilled by any course in the Faculty.

V. CREDITS FOR DIPLOMA WORK: 20 CREDITS

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|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|----|
| ENGSEMIO-TH Thesis Writing | 4 | Individual preparation | 0 | 0 | 20 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|----|

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|--|---------------------------|
| Total credits in the programme: | <u>120 credits</u> |
| Total hours in the programme: | 765 + Free courses |