

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

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
ENGSEMIO26-100 Introduction to Semiotics (The History and Theory of Semiotics) I.	1	L Exam	o	30	4
ENGSEMIO-101 Introduction to Semiotics (The History and Theory of Semiotics) II.	2	L Exam	o	30	5
ENGSEMIO-102 Intercultural Communication Studies: Concepts, Theories and Research	2	L Exam	o	30	4

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
ENGSEMIO26-301 Logic – Reasoning a) Logic Seminar / Logic Lecture b) Logic and Reasoning	3	S Seminar grade	a/b: fixed elective	30	4
ENGSEMIO-302 Logic – Reasoning	3	L Exam	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
ENGSEMIO-313 Semiotics of Culture III. (Semiotic Text Reading and Interpretation: Semiotics of Authors)	3-4	S Seminar grade	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
Semiotic Pragmatics, the Use of Signs, Signalling Practice (10 credits)					
ENGSEMIO-321 Discourse and Culture	3	S Seminar grade	o	60	5
ENGSEMIO-323* Culture and Interculturality	1-4	S Seminar grade	o	60	6
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-334 Thesis seminar	4	S Seminar grade	o	30	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) Depending on the course requirements specified in the curriculum, students must complete either colloquium-based courses or practical courses totaling 9 credits.

BMI-ENGSEMIO-403 Special Semiotic Course 1.	1-4	S Seminar grade	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
BMI-ENGSEMIO-404 Special Semiotic Course 2.	1-4	S Seminar grade	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
BMI-ENGSEMIO-405 Special Semiotic Course 3.	1-4	S Seminar grade	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
BMI-ENGSEMIO-406 Special Semiotic Course 1.	1-4	L Exam	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
BMI-ENGSEMIO-407 Special Semiotic Course 2.	1-4	L Exam	a/b: fixed elective	30	3
BMI-ENGSEMIO-408 Special Semiotic Course 3.	1-4	L Exam	a/b: fixed elective	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

ENGSEMIO-TH Thesis Writing	4	Individual preparation	o	0	20
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Total credits in the programme:	<u>120 credits</u>
Total hours in the programme:	765 + Free courses