Department of Language and Linguistic Science
2022/23 Module Evaluation

Summary of open comments with tutor response

Module Code and Name: LAN00048H

Module Convenor: Prof. Giuseppe Longobardi

2 out of 7 students completed the online module evaluation.
1 student left comments.
Overall satisfaction score for the module was: 2.5

Summary of comments:

Positive comments	Number
	1
	2
	3
	4

Constructive criticisms	Number
	1
	2
	3
	4

Comments and responses collected below:

Pino is incredibly enthusiastic about his subject and comes across as very approchable, should we have any questions or issues. However, I found the content hard to follow due to a lack of physical detailing (no lecture slides etc).

This is precisely what a seminar should be like and what trues to encourage students to learn how to understand, take notes and retain important contents from a live lecture. From what I saw in class and in the first summative this structure worked so much better than the lecture system of the previous years and all the students performed very well.

I felt I needed more time to talk through the practical work, but instead lessons often got side-tracked with tangents that were very interesting, but didn't seem to be relevant to the subjects originally being discussed.

Yes, this is why I invited students to stay more time than scheduled in the practicals, which we did with very satisfactorily results, I believe, and to come regularly to my office hours, which unfortunately hardly anyone did.

More clarity on what the summatives would entail would have been helpful, as this module is difficult to grasp and so we need more concrete ideas of what topics are key areas and what topics are just tangents - it's very difficult to maintain focus during a two hour seminar when we don't know where the discussion is going to go (again, going back to no lecture slides/concrete plans) and how it relates to the exams. I would have appreciated more use of the VLE, for example the answers to the practicals that we didn't have time to discuss in class would have been helpful.

This is a good suggestion (about answers to exercises), though the VLE is not the appropriate tool for this, but we can use alternatives which more directly involve teacher and students.

Finally, please list 'basic/background knowledge of xyz' language on the module information sheet! We were all very taken aback to hear that Greek was 'essential' to this module in the first seminar, and that one of the readings would be wholly in French (wholly about Greek...) and another wholly in German.

No basic knowledge of any language is technically required since all the examples from every language can be explained in class and in the readings. No reading in German was assigned and the one in French was entrusted to two fluent students to expose (and was also covered in a publication in English). No course on historical-comparative linguistics can completely do away with Indo-European, fro which Greek examples are crucial. Some alternative would involve more ....Austronesian.

Overall, I have enjoyed the module and I'm fascinated by the subject, but I have found it highly confusing due to a lack of structure with the teaching.

Emerging from initial puzzlement with a new subject is one of the challenges university-level seminars should provide, the first outcomes of the summatives seem to suggest that all students managed to do exactly this.

Thank you for your feedback.