

LIN3010 Introduction to Linguistics

Spring 2015 Syllabus

Instructor

Name: William Sheard
Office: 4122 Turlington Hall
Contact: via Canvas (see below)
Office Hours: Monday 4 (10:40-11:30)
Tuesday 8 (15:00-15:50)
Thursday 6 (12:50-13:40)

Class Times

<i>Section</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Periods</i>
004E	Anderson 0021	M3, W3 & F3
004G	Anderson 0021	M5, W5 & F5

Course description

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of language. The course has one overarching objective, namely, to explain how all languages can be conceived as highly organized systems, the components of which we shall investigate in some depth.

The course begins with a broad overview of the history and scope of linguistics, after which we explore fundamental linguistic concepts and approaches, an understanding of which is crucial for any budding linguist: sound and sound systems in language (phonetics and phonology, respectively); word formation (morphology); sentence structure (syntax); meaning in language (semantics); and, language in its practical application to everyday life (pragmatics).

Towards the end of the course, group presentations from students will apply knowledge gained so far in order to explain a range of interesting topics of concern to linguists. We will also explore how linguists go about doing linguistics – and how you can get involved here at UF. After all, language is all around us!

Course objectives

This course aims to enable you to:

- ◆ develop an appreciation of the main areas of linguistic inquiry, with a particular focus on so-called “core” linguistics (i.e. phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics);
- ◆ understand how languages differ and how they are similar;
- ◆ learn empirical techniques of linguistic study and apply them to real-world data;
- ◆ develop problem-solving skills applicable to many college disciplines.

Course materials

The following textbook is required:

Language Files, Eleventh Edition, Ohio State Press (ISBN-13: 978-0814251799)

Please note that if you acquire a second-hand copy of a previous edition of the course textbook, it is your responsibility to check that activities and topics covered in your edition correspond to those in the eleventh edition. **Any omitted or incorrectly submitted homework is the responsibility of the student.** Based on previous experience in teaching this course, it is highly recommended that you acquire the eleventh edition.

Suggestions for further reading will be given throughout the semester. Please note that these suggested readings are not required for the course, but are meant for those seeking a more in-depth understanding of a given topic.

Use of Canvas

Canvas is UF's online learning portal, accessible on the university's website at:

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

You will need your GatorID username and password to gain access.

Course handouts, homework assignments, in-class slides and other *ad hoc* resources will be posted there over the course of the semester. Grades will be made available via Canvas and important notices posted there, as the need arises. Should you need to contact the instructor, please use the in-built e-mail system. Please get into the habit of visiting the site regularly for updates and class materials.

Course requirements

Overview

Graded component	Weighting
Homework (x8)	40%
Final Exam	20%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Quizzes (via Canvas) (x5)	10%
Research participation	7.5%
Group Presentation	7.5%

Homework

There will be eight homework assignments during the course of the semester. Each one will count for 5% of your final grade.

All written work that you turn in must be your own work and be written exclusively by you. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the due date (see below and Canvas). Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero (see Missed or late work).

All assignments must be typed and printed on clean paper. They must be stapled and have your name on them. Illegible or otherwise unacceptably presented homework may be

rejected, or points docked, at the discretion of the instructor. Neatness and legibility count.

Exams

There will be two exams during the semester: a mid-term exam and a final exam.

The mid-term exam is each worth 15% of your final grade. It assesses your understanding of the material up to Spring Break (i.e. up to and including Morphology).

The final exam is worth 20% of your final grade. It is a cumulative exam assessing understanding of the whole course. Students with a good attendance record and strong consistency throughout the semester are likely to be more successful on the final exam. Please do not leave it to the last minute to review and/or ask questions of your instructor. Final exam dates and times are listed at the end of this syllabus and on the UF Registrar's website.

Exam make-ups are only permitted in certain circumstances (see Missed or late work, below). If you know you will be unavoidably absent for the mid-term exam, contact the instructor well ahead of time to discuss alternative arrangements. If you are absent due to a medical condition, you may make up the exam provided you have documentary evidence. In any case, please discuss the matter with your instructor as soon as possible. Students with an airplane ticket or other such travel arrangements which conflict with the final exam date will not be excused, and they will receive a zero grade for the exam in such circumstances.

“Progress Check” Quizzes

“Progress Check” quizzes are assigned after certain modules (e.g. Phonetics). There will be five such quizzes, each counting for 2% of the final grade. Students will have limited time in which to complete each quiz on Canvas. Multiple attempts are not possible so make sure you are well prepared before beginning each quiz. Quizzes provide a relatively non-punitive measure of your progress. If you find you have done worse than you expected on a quiz, please come to office hours or speak to your instructor after class in order to iron out any problems before the important exams.

Research participation

To encourage awareness of different aspects of linguistics, you are required to participate in at least one hour of language or communication research during the semester. This assignment is worth 7.5% of your final grade. A list of experiments that qualify for this credit can be found at:

<http://slhs.php.ufl.edu/student-info/participant-pool-2/>

The site will be updated throughout the semester.

After participating in a study or studies, you will write a two-page description of the goals and methods of the study as well as any comments you have about your experience. You will probably have to discuss the study with the researcher in order to determine this information, as researchers often deliberately hide the true purpose of the experiment for methodological reasons. Include a copy of the informed consent form with your write-up when you turn it in. **The last date that this assignment may be turned in for credit is April 15, 2015.**

If you do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit for reading a linguistics article and writing a two-page synopsis thereof. The last date that you may turn in this synopsis is April 15, 2015; in addition, you must receive pre-approval for your article from the course instructor by April 8, 2015. Do not assume that your article will be approved – check first!

Group presentations

Learning to present your work in a clear and concise manner before your peers constitutes important preparation for work both inside and outside academia. Group presentations, which count for 7.5% of your final grade, give you a chance to explore a topic in some depth. You will be assigned to a group, and the topics for discussion will be chosen by your instructor.

Presentations will be about seven to ten minutes in length, with a period of five minutes or so for discussion afterwards. It is expected that all group members will contribute to the design and delivery of the presentation. Furthermore, the class as a whole shall participate in the subsequent five-minute discussion of the topics being presented.

Attendance requirement

There is no formal attendance requirement. It is the instructor's belief that it is up to you to decide how best to spend your time. Past experience has shown, however, that students who regularly attend class and are well-prepared for the session to come are much more likely to succeed. It is therefore advised that you attend as many sessions as you can.

Grading

The following grading scale will be used:

A	93-100	B-	80-83	D+	67-70
A-	90-93	C+	77-80	D	63-67
B+	87-90	C	73-77	D-	60-63
B	83-87	C-	70-73	E	<60

Additional information about UF's grading policies is available online:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The instructor will aim to return graded assignments to you within seven days to ensure that you are aware of your progress. Please feel free to discuss your progress with your instructor at any time.

Other information

Missed or late work; absence from class

In general, late work or electronically submitted work will not be accepted. Sometimes, however, absence from class is unavoidable. Acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional

conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) will also be excused. If you know that you will be unable to complete any work on time, contact the instructor to make prior arrangements. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, an electronic copy of a completed assignment is usually acceptable. If, for example, you fall ill the night before a deadline, but have completed your homework, you may e-mail a copy to the instructor (see contact details above). You will have to provide a hard copy later, once you return to class, but will not be penalized. If an unexpected emergency arises, please inform your instructor as soon as possible, and no later than two days after the due date, and keep all records (medical or otherwise) pertaining to the unexpected emergency. **The more warning you give, the easier it is to arrive at a solution.**

Academic honesty

Academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It may result in disciplinary action and failure in the course. The University has an Honor Code which reads as follows: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity”. The honor code is accessible online:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

The bottom line is: “On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Copying or sharing any part of your homework assignments in any way, shape, or form is strictly prohibited. For computer work, this includes, but is not limited to, using the same file/document as someone else, using a modified file/document, or copying information between files/documents. No written work may be a joint effort in any way unless explicitly permitted and stated.

Electronic devices

A number of studies have shown that the use of technology can be detrimental to your educational progress and that of those around you in the classroom. Texting friends, checking Facebook and Twitter, and even online shopping are temptations that can be hard to resist! Your instructor knows this to be the case because he has sat in classes just like yours from the students' perspective. Therefore, the use of electronic devices including cellphones and laptops is prohibited during lesson time. Students who use such devices will be asked to turn them off or, *in extremis*, to leave the classroom.

Those who require accommodations (see also below) may use laptop technology but they must have a requirement on file with the DRC. If this applies to you, please see the course instructor at the start of the semester to discuss accommodations.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register online with the Dean of Students Office:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>

The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open, as well as e-mail reminders. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

Course schedule

Note that the course schedule and contents are subject to change. While every effort will be made to ensure that we stay on track, disruptions can occasionally arise. The instructor will advise the students in a timely manner of any changes to the course schedule. Should this occur, every effort will be made to minimize the disruption to students. For example, if an assignment is posted late, students will be given extra time to complete it.

A complete, tentative schedule is shown on the following page. It is suggested that you print out at least this page of the syllabus for ease of reference. Reading assignments for each week are listed. It is important that you do the reading in order to enhance your interest in the discipline and gain the greatest benefit from your participation in the course. Do not assume that everything you are expected to know is on the course slides.

In the table below, (C) refers to content available via Canvas > Modules.

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Dates	Topic(s)	Reading	Due Dates, Holidays
01/05 – 01/09	Introduction	LF: 1.0 – 1.5; McGregor (C)	No class: <i>Monday</i> Preliminary Quiz (non-graded)
01/12 – 01/16			Drop/Add: <i>ends Monday</i> Homework 1: Friday
01/19 – 01/23	Phonetics	LF: 2.0 – 2.2	Quiz 1 (see Canvas for more info) No class: <i>Monday</i>
01/26 – 01/30	Phonetics	LF: 2.3 – 2.5	Homework 2: Monday
02/02 – 02/06	Phonology	LF: 3.0 – 3.3	Quiz 2 (see Canvas for more info) Homework 3: Monday
02/09 – 02/13	Phonology	LF: 3.4 – 3.5	Homework 4: Monday
02/16 – 02/20	Morphology	LF: 4.0 – 4.2	Homework 5: Monday
02/23 – 02/27	Morphology	LF: 4.3 – 4.5	Quiz 3 (see Canvas for more info)
03/02 – 03/06	S P R I N G B R E A K – N O C L A S S !		
03/09 – 03/13	Syntax	LF: 5.1 – 5.3	Mid-term: Wednesday
03/16 – 03/20	Syntax	LF: 5.4 – 5.5	Homework 6: Monday
03/23 – 03/27	Semantics		Quiz 4 (see Canvas for more info)
03/30 – 04/03	Semantics / Pragmatics		Homework 7: Monday
04/06 – 04/10	Pragmatics		Homework 8: Friday
04/13 – 04/17	Doing Linguistics	LF: 17.1 – 17.6	Quiz 5 (see Canvas for more info) Research Part. Due: Wednesday Group Presentations (1): Friday
04/20 – 04/24	Review (Wednesday)		Group Presentations (2): Monday No class: <i>Friday</i>
04/27 – 05/01	Exam Week	Cumulative	Final Exam (see below)

Final Exam Times

The final exam will take place in our usual classroom, Anderson 0021, at the following times:

Section 004E	04/30/15 (Thursday)	5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Section 004G	04/30/15 (Thursday)	12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.