

LIN3010 Introduction to Linguistics

Spring 2014 Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday 4 (10:40-11:30)
Wednesday 6 (12:50-13:40)
Friday 4 (10:40-11:30)

Class Times

| <i>Section</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Periods</i> |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 004E | Anderson 0019 | M3, W3 & F3 |
| 004G | Anderson 0013 | M5, W5 & F5 |

Course description

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of language. The course has three primary goals: (1) to explain how all languages can be conceived as highly organized systems, the components of which we shall investigate in some depth; (2) to examine how language is acquired; (3) to explore how language is stored and processed in the brain.

The course begins with a broad overview of the concerns of linguistics, after which we explore sound and sound systems in language (phonetics and phonology, respectively), word formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax) and meaning in language (semantics).

We shall also consider how humans acquire language. Finally, we shall consider how language is stored and processed in the brain, and what brain injury can tell us about how language works.

Course objectives

This course aims to enable you to:

- ◆ develop an appreciation of the main areas of linguistic inquiry, with a particular focus on “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.

Use of Sakai

Sakai (e-learning) is UF's online learning portal, accessible on the university's website at:

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

You will need your Gator 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 Sakai and important notices posted there, as the need arises. Please get into the habit of visiting the site regularly for updates and class materials.

Course requirements

Overview

| Graded component | Weighting |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Exams | 40% |
| Homework | 40% |
| Research participation | 10% |
| “Pop quizzes” | 10% |

Exams

There will be three exams during the semester. Each will count for 13.33% of your final grade. Exams are non-cumulative but you should be aware that similar problems and approaches emerge across linguistics sub-disciplines. Exams may contain problem-solving exercises, short-essay questions (e.g. one paragraph) and/or multiple-choice type questions.

Exam make-ups are only permitted in certain circumstances (see Missed or late work, below). If you know you will be unavoidably absent for an exam, contact the instructor well ahead of time to discuss alternative arrangements. If you 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.

Homework

There will be five homework assignments during the course of the semester. Each will count for 8% 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 Sakai). 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.

Research participation

To encourage awareness of different aspects of linguistics, you are required to participate in at least one and a half hours of language or communication research during the semester. A list of experiments that qualify for this credit can be found at:

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

The site will be updated throughout the semester.

After participating in a study or studies, please 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 16, 2014.**

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 16, 2014; in addition, you must receive pre-approval for your article from the course instructor by April 9, 2014. Do not assume that your article will be approved – check first!

“Pop quizzes” and attendance requirement

While there is no class attendance requirement, ten “pop quizzes” (assigned at the discretion of the instructor) will take place throughout the semester. They will typically comprise a single question or problem given at the start of class. These questions will be easy to answer if you are attending class regularly and keeping up with readings.

As with class exams, there is no make-up for these quizzes, although allowance will be made for medical absence or conference attendance. It is therefore in your best interests to attend class regularly and punctually.

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.

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.

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. 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.

A complete, tentative schedule is shown below. It is suggested that you print out at least this page of this 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 need to know is on the course slides.

Arguably the most challenging part of the course comes near the beginning, as you are expected to learn much of the international phonetic alphabet ([IPA](#)). Do not underestimate the time commitment that this entails.

| Dates | Topic(s) | Reading | Due Dates, Holidays |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Jan. 06-10 | Introduction / Linguistics overview | LF: 1.0 – 1.5 | Drop/Add: <i>ends Friday</i> |
| Jan. 13-17 | Phonetics | LF: 2.0 – 2.2 | |
| Jan. 20-24 | Phonetics | LF: 2.3 – 2.5 | MLK Day: <i>no class Monday</i> |
| Jan. 27-31 | Phonology | LF: 3.0 – 3.3 | HW1 Monday |
| Feb. 03-07 | Phonology | LF: 3.4 – 3.5 | |
| Feb. 10-14 | Morphology | LF: 4.0 – 4.2 | Exam 1 Monday |
| Feb. 17-21 | Morphology | LF: 4.3 – 4.5 | |
| Feb. 24-28 | Syntax | LF: 5.0 – 5.3 | HW2 Monday |
| Mar. 03-07 | SPRING BREAK | | |
| Mar. 10-14 | Syntax | LF: 5.4 – 5.5 | |
| Mar. 17-21 | Semantics | LF: 6.0 – 6.3 | HW3 Monday |
| Mar. 24-28 | Semantics / Pragmatics | LF: 6.4, 7.0 – 7.3 | |
| Mar. 31 – Apr. 04 | Pragmatics / Lang. Acquisition | LF: 7.4 – 7.5 LF: 8.0 – 8.1 | Exam 2 Monday |
| Apr. 07-11 | Language Acquisition | LF: 8.2 – 8.5, 17.1 | HW4 Monday |
| Apr. 14-18 | Language Storage and Processing | LF: 9.0 – 9.4 | HW5 Monday Research part. Wednesday |
| Apr. 21-25 | Language Storage and Processing | LF: 9.5 – 9.7 | Reading day: <i>no class Friday</i> |
| Apr. 28 – May 02 | See note below ↓ | | Final Exam * |

* Details of Final Exam times for your section are available at the address below. Note that these dates and times are fixed by the University Registrar and cannot be altered by the instructor.

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201308/all/linguist.htm>