

LIN 3010: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Information

Fall 2023: Y 19JW1 9 -6595 FR 26685 FR .R FY5657

W 19JW1ix 92: -6595 FR 2678: UR .

Instructor: Megan Nakamura

mnakamura@ufl.edu

Office: B124 Turlington

Office Hours: T by appointment only/Th, 8:00-9:30

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the broad topic of Human Language. The goal will be to introduce ourselves with the structure of human language (syntax), the sound systems of languages (phonology), the rules that govern our words (morphology). Throughout the course we will broadly cover how linguists have analyze and understand human language phenomena from formal linguistics to experimental linguistics including neuro, psycho, and computational approaches to investigate questions such as “how does the human brain process, understand, and learn language?”, “how can we get AI to understand humans better?”, and more!

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core areas of linguistics
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages

Course Learning Tasks

To accomplish the objectives of this course, we will complete the following tasks:

Homework Tasks (5 x 20 points; 100 total)

In order to give you practice in the linguistic analysis techniques we cover in each module, you will complete homefun practice tasks during each module. These tasks will require you to analyze real-world language use using the skills you develop in class practice activities. These are due in class on the final day of each module.

Quizzes (8 x 10 points; 80 total)

In order to assess your ability to put the knowledge gained in each module into practice, you will take a quiz on the last class day of each module. These quizzes will be based on information covered in the lectures and will resemble the kinds of things you did on in-class practice activities and the homefun practice.

Exams (200 points)

There will be two exams: a midterm (100 points) and a final exam (100 points). They will both consist of problems similar in content and format to those on homework tasks and quizzes. The midterm exam will cover the contents of Modules 1-4. The final exam will be cumulative and cover the contents of Modules 1-8.

Grading

Course Learning Tasks and Grading	
Assignment	% of Grade
Homework Tasks	100 (5 x 20)
Quizzes	80 (8 x 10)
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Total Points Possible	280

Grading Scale (in %)			
100—93	A	76—73	C
92—90	A-	72—70	C-
89—87	B+	69—67	D+
86—83	B	66—63	D
82—80	B-	62—60	D-
79—77	C+	59—0	E

More information regarding current UF grading policies can be found here:

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

Course Textbook and Additional Readings

For this course, we will be primarily reading chapters from the following textbook:

Finegan, E. (2015). *Language: Its Structure and Use* (7th Edition). Stamford, Connecticut: Cengage Learning.

Any additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Expectations (How to Succeed in this Course)

Complete the Readings

Each reading in this course introduces new concepts and terms that will be used heavily in lectures and discussions. Having a strong understanding of these concepts and terms will be crucial to your success on the quizzes, homework discussions, and exams.

Attend and Actively Participate in Class

Class attendance is not only mandatory, but also incredibly essential for your success in this course. Class meetings in this course will be devoted to exploring in depth the concepts covered in the readings and lectures through a mix of review activities and discussions. As such, you are expected to come and ready to engage in class activities and discussions. This includes arriving on time, bringing all required materials, remaining engaged (e.g. not sleeping, not on social media), and staying for the entirety of the class (packing up early is the same as leaving class early).

Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to check in with me. You are allowed to take three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence beyond that may lower your final course grade by one level (e.g. from A to A-). Excused absences should be consistent with UF policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>). Additionally, students must provide documentation (e.g. doctor's note) within two weeks after the absence for an absence to be excused.

Check Canvas Regularly

Canvas will be the main platform for the course and our main way of communication. All class resources will be stored in Canvas. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas and feedback on assignments will also be submitted via Canvas. For these reasons, make sure you know how to upload assignments, view feedback on those uploads, and receive notifications and announcements. In addition, I regularly send out Announcements and reminders about upcoming assignments through Canvas, so make sure to check Canvas regularly and set up your Canvas notifications.

Submit Work on Time

Time management is one of the most essential skills you need to develop during college. This includes planning your work-life balance so that you can meet all your deadlines. Every assignment in this course has a deadline that you will need to meet. Late work is not accepted except in the case of verifiable extenuating circumstances. These are events or circumstances out of your control (e.g. sickness) that you can provide documentation for (e.g. doctor's note). If you need an extension on an assignment, set up an appointment to discuss your situation with me.

Communicate with Me

I cannot stress this enough: if you need to communicate with me, do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help you succeed and am willing to work with you to make that happen. E-mail me, send me a Canvas message, visit my office hours, or set up an appointment time to get in touch. If I don't respond within a couple of days, try again. You are expected to follow the Netiquette Guidelines on Canvas when interacting with me via e-mail or other forms of communication.

Be Honest

I expect you to do your own work and follow all rules concerning testing and assignment submission. As a student of the University of Florida, you are bound by The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are

obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the me.

Provide Feedback

I always welcome professional and respectful feedback on all parts of my instruction and the course. I take this feedback seriously and use it to improve my teaching and how I set up my courses. You will have multiple attempts to give me anonymous feedback throughout the semester as well as at the end of the semester via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Take Care of Yourself & Request Accommodation If Needed

College can be a challenging time. In addition to studying for multiple courses, students face a host of social, mental, and physical challenges. It is important that you take care of yourself, both physically and mentally, so that you can not only survive, but thrive.

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, you should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Be Prepared for Technology Issues

Technology, for all its benefits, doesn't always work. So, it's important for you to have a Plan B. Save files on your computer as well as Google Drive or Dropbox. Be prepared to submit assignments earlier than the last minutes in order to avoid possible internet issues when submitting assignments. If you're having issues with UF technology (e.g. Canvas), contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>). Worst comes to worst, contact me and let me know your situation and we can work something out.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If deviations are made, I will upload an updated schedule to Canvas.

Week 1:		readings	Assignments
Thursday, August 24, 2023	syllabus day + course introduction		
Tuesday, August 29, 2023	Introduction to Linguistics	Finegan, Ch. 1	
Thursday, August 31, 2023	Introduction to Linguistics		Homefun #1; Quiz #1
Week 2:			
Tuesday, September 05, 2023	Phonetics	Finegan, Ch. 3	
Thursday, September 7, 2023	Phonetics	Finegan, Ch. 3	
Week 3:			
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	Phonetics	Finegan, Ch. 3	Homefun #2; Quiz #2
Thursday, September 14, 2023	Phonology	Finegan, Ch. 4	
Week 4:			
Tuesday, September 19, 2023	Phonology	Finegan, Ch. 4	
Thursday, September 21, 2023	Phonology	Finegan, Ch. 4	
Week 5:			
Tuesday, September 26, 2023	Phonology	Finegan, Ch. 4	
Thursday, September 28, 2023	Phonology	Finegan, Ch. 4	Homefun #3; Quiz #3
Week 6:			
Tuesday, October 03, 2023	Morphology	Finegan, Ch. 2	
Thursday, October 5, 2023	Morphology	Finegan, Ch. 2	
Week 7:			

Tuesday, October 10, 2023	Morphology	Finegan, Ch. 2	
Thursday, October 12, 2023	Morphology	Finegan, Ch. 2	Homefun #4; Quiz #4
Week 8:			
Tuesday, October 17, 2023	Midterm Prep		
Thursday, October 19, 2023	Midterm		
Week 9:			
Tuesday, October 24, 2023	Wellness Check Day		
Thursday, October 26, 2023	Wellness Check Day		
Week 10:			
Tuesday, October 31, 2023	Syntax	Finegan, Ch. 5	
Thursday, November 2, 2023	Syntax	Finegan, Ch. 5	
Week 11:			
Tuesday, November 07, 2023	Syntax	Finegan, Ch. 5	
Thursday, November 09, 2023	Syntax	Finegan, Ch. 5	Homefun #5; Quiz #5
Week 12:			
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	Semantics	Finegan, Ch. 6	
Thursday, November 16, 2023	Pragmatics	Finegan, Ch. 9	
Week 13:			
Tuesday, November 21, 2023	Day Off		
Thursday, November 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Break		

Week 14:			
Tuesday, November 28, 2023	Research in Linguistics		Quiz #6
Thursday, November 30, 2023	Language and the Brain		Quiz #7
Week 15:			
Tuesday, December 05, 2023	Bilingualism and Language Variation		Quiz #8
Thursday, December 7, 2023	Final Exam		