

LIN3010 Introduction to Linguistics

Summer B 2014 Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday (10:00-10:50)
Thursday (12:25-13:15)

Class Times

Section	Location	Days / Period
4B60	Anderson 0019	M-F 3

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

<i>Graded component</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Class Exams	30%
Final Exam	20%
Homework	40%
Group Presentation	10%

Exams

(1) Class Exams

There will be three class exams during the semester. Each will count for 10% of your final grade. The class 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. The class exams will cover the following material:

Exam 1: Overview, phonetics, phonology

Exam 2: Syntax, morphology

Exam 3: Semantics, pragmatics

Class exams will take 45 minutes of class time. At the end of the exam, and after a five-minute break, the class will reconvene.

(2) Final exam

In addition to the class exams, there is a cumulative, final exam for this course, which will count for 20% of your final grade. It will be held during our usual class time in Anderson 19 on the final day of class.

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 four homework assignments during the course of the semester. Each will count for 10% 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.

Group Presentation

The group presentation will count for 10% of your final grade. Unlike some other courses you may have taken, the presentations will not be held at the end of the course, but towards the middle (see Schedule below). You will be required to work in groups of four or five to present on a topic of interest within linguistics. Your instructor will provide you with the theme for the topic, as well as suggestions for source material and background, where applicable. All members of the group should participate in both the composition and the presentation of your assigned topic. Students are, however, graded individually.

It is expected that you will give a fifteen-minute Powerpoint presentation, but you should not rely exclusively on Powerpoint. The presentation will be followed by a brief Q&A session during which the whole class should be prepared to participate.

Further information concerning expectations for the group presentation will be made available on Sakai by the start of the course.

Attendance

While there is no formal class attendance requirement, you are highly encouraged to turn up to all classes. In the summer semesters, the pace is rapid. Those students who miss classes typically do poorly. 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 by the following day to ensure that you are aware of your progress. If you have not received a returned assignment due to absence, please ask for it. Receiving feedback is an important part of learning.

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.**

Classroom etiquette

(1) Lateness

Arriving late to class is unacceptable as it disrupts learning for you and your peers. The instructor reserves the right to refuse entry to any student who arrives after the beginning of the class period.

(2) Cellphones

The use of cellphones is not permitted in the classroom. Students should ensure that phones are set to “silence” before class begins. The use of a cellphone during class time, either for texting or calling, will result in the student being asked to leave the class for that day and given a written warning. A second such violation will result in an E grade for the class.

(3) Social Media

The use of social media can be a considerable distraction for those sitting nearby. Any student found to be using social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as e-mail, on their computer during class time will be asked to leave and given a written warning. As with the policy on cellphones, a second such violation will result in an E grade for the class.

The only exception to this rule will be if social media and/or cellphones are used as a part of a group presentation.

You are, however, allowed to use a laptop or tablet computer for note-taking.

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 on the next page. 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 for that day prior to coming to class 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	Assignments, etc.
Jun. 30 – Jul. 4	Monday: Overview, syllabus, introductions Tuesday: Linguistics and what makes a good linguist Wednesday: Phonetics – IPA, articulation Thursday: Phonetics – consonants Friday: Holiday (no class)	LF: 1.0 – 1.5 LF: 2.0 – 2.2 LF: 2.3	Drop/Add: <i>ends</i> NO CLASS
Jul. 7 – 11	Monday: Phonetics – vowels, transcription practice Tuesday: Phonology – phonotactics, allophones Wednesday: Phonology – rules, practice problems Thursday: Phonology – implicational laws, practice Friday: Morphology – the lexicon, what is a word?	LF: 2.4 – 2.5 LF: 3.1 – 3.2 LF: 3.3, 3.5 LF: 3.4 LF: 4.1	HW1 Due
Jul. 14 – 18	Monday: Exam 1 [^] ; morphology Tuesday: Morphology – processes, types Wednesday: Morphology – word derivation, practice Thursday: Morphology – analysis, practice Friday: Group Presentations (x3)	LF: 4.2 – 4.3 LF: 4.4 LF: 4.5	Exam 1[^] Presentations
Jul. 21 – 25	Monday: Group Presentations (x3) Tuesday: Syntax – basics, properties, typology Wednesday: Syntax – categories, constituency, structure Thursday: Syntax – developing structure, practice Friday: Semantics – sense and reference, lexical semantics	LF: 5.1 – 5.2 LF: 5.4 – 5.5 Rules: Sakai LF: 6.1 – 6.2	HW2 Due; Pres. HW3 Due
Jul. 28 – Aug. 1	Monday: Semantics – compositional semantics, practice Tuesday: Exam 2 [^] ; introducing pragmatics Wednesday: Pragmatics – context, Grice's maxims Thursday: Pragmatics – speech acts, presupposition Friday: Language Acquisition *	LF: 6.3 – 6.4 LF: 7.1 – 7.2 LF: 7.3 – 7.4 LF: 8.1 – 8.3	Exam 2[^] HW4 Due
Aug. 4 – Aug. 8	Monday: Exam 3 [^] ; language acquisition Tuesday: Language and the Brain * Wednesday: Language Contact * Thursday: Review Friday: Final Exam (Cumulative)	LF: 9.2 – 9.4 LF: 12.1 – 12.4	Exam 3[^] Final Exam

[^] Class will continue after the class exam has concluded and students have taken a five-minute break.

* Note that these days will comprise overviews of these chapters. Information presented and discussed in class during these sessions may, however, appear on the final exam.