

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

Summer Course

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Email:

Synchronous Session:

Course Description: What is the internal structure of language? Can we classify the sounds of the world's languages? Do all languages obey the same syntactic principles? What are some beliefs that speakers share during a conversation? In this course we will answer questions related to the nature of language and the main theories in linguistics. In the course we will define the properties of Human Language, identify its differences with animal communication and engage with the concept of mental grammar and linguistic knowledge. You will be introduced to the basic tools to analyze language and we will explore linguistic phenomena in morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, and phonology. This is a 6-week hybrid course that has a synchronous and an asynchronous component. You will be introduced to the content with video lectures and we will meet once a week in a synchronous session to discuss the content and practice in collaborative assignments. This course is designed for undergraduate students with no previous knowledge in linguistics.

Objectives: In this course you will learn to analyze linguistic phenomena from the main branches of linguistics: syntax, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics and phonology. You will critically think about language structure and arguments that support theory-building in linguistics. After this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the major concepts in the study of human language and the building blocks of linguistics
- Identify word structure and the processes of word formation
- Understand the principles guiding sentence structure (e.g., phrase rules and x-bar theory)
- Understand the theories of word meaning (e.g., lexical relations) and composition of sentential meaning (e.g, principle of compositionality, type of sentences according to truth conditions and theta roles) .
- Identify the role of conversation norms in discourse.
- Describe in articulatory terms speech sounds and transcribe these sounds using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- Identify phonemes and allophones and analyze the main phonological processes in these language.

Course Materials:

- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., Hyams, N. (2018). An introduction to language. Cengage Learning.
- (Optional) The Language Instinct (any edition) by Steven Pinker

Course Requirements:

- You are required to read the assigned readings for each week, watch the pre-recorded lectures, participate in the synchronic sessions, complete the assignments and the exams, and post questions & answers in the forum.

Assignments:

- Assignments will be posted on CCLE through Gradescope.
- Assignments are expected to be completed by due date. Assignments submitted 4 days after the due date will not be accepted. For every day the assignment is late after the assignment is due, 25% will be deducted from the assignment score.
- You are allowed to discuss the homework in group, but Although I encourage discussions about the homework, you cannot copy another student's homework or allow other students to copy your work.

Participation:

- Quizzes embedded in the video lectures (5%). Quizzes will not be graded, just counted as complete or incomplete.
- Attendance and participation in the synchronous session (5%). If there is a reasonable excuse for missing lecture, please, let me know before lecture. If you are not able to attend the synchronous session due to timezone differences, contact me as soon as possible for alternatives.

Exams:

- There will be **2** non-cumulative exams in this course.
- The exams will be posted on CCLE and will have to be completed through GradeScope. You will have 90 minutes to complete the each one of the exams.
- Exams will be completed outside of usual class times. If you anticipate a time conflict, contact me as soon as possible.

Grading Policy:

- Homework (40%)
- Exam 1 (25%)
- Exam 2 (25%)
- Participation (10%)

Inclusive Learning Environment/Class Participation

As your instructor, I am committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment. We will have many opportunities to increase our understandings of different perspectives this quarter, and our work together may not always be easy. Sometimes we will make mistakes in our speaking and listening; sometimes we will need patience or courage or imagination—or more—to engage with our texts, each other, our guests, and our own ideas and experiences within higher education and in community work. We have a shared responsibility to bring respect for others and an open mind to each class discussion, in person and online, so that this class can be a space for brave and thoughtful dialogue. In addition to the values outlined here, we will work together to articulate other shared values for the course throughout the quarter.

* Dates and coverage are subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments (due by noon)
1		The Nature of Language and Linguistics Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch.1 & video lectures	
2		Morphology Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch.2 & video lectures	Assignment 1
3		Syntax Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch. 3 & video lectures	Assignment 2
4		Semantics and Pragmatics Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch. 4 & video lectures	Midterm
5		Phonetics Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch.5 & video lectures	Assignment 3
6		Phonology Fromkin et al. (2018) Ch. 6 & video lectures	Final Exam Assignment 4

Learning Goal	Learning Objectives	Assessment
You will understand the major concepts in the study of human language and the building blocks of linguistics	Identify descriptive and prescriptive rules	
	Understand the problem of the poverty of the stimulus (Universal Grammar).	Assignment 1
	Identify and recognize the properties of human language and compare human language to animal communication.	Midterm
	Explore the relationship between language and thought	
You will understand word structure and the processes of word formation	Identify the processes of word formation	Assignment 1
	Segment words in morphemes	Midterm
	Identify constituents in sentences	
	Identify structural ambiguity.	
You will understand the principles guiding sentence structure.	Identify lexical and phrasal categories and heads of the phrases.	Assignment 2
	Differentiate between complements and adjuncts	Midterm
	Draw tree-like diagrams using x-bar theory	
	Apply movement rules for questions	
Understand the theories of word meaning and composition of sentential meaning.	Identify references and senses in nouns.	
	Apply Semantics Rule I and II to determine compositional meaning.	Assignment 3
Understand the role of social context in meaning.	Recognize Grice's Maxims in conversation.	Final exam
	Identify implicatures derived from Grice's Maxims.	
	Transcribe in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), describe consonants and vowels	
	using articulatory phonetics.	Assignment 4
You will learn the articulation of speech sounds and the main types of phonological rules	Identify phonemes	Final Exam
	and derive phonetic forms	
	from underlying phonological representations.	