

**Lectures:** Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00 pm, SSC-3028

**Tutorials:** Section 201 - online discussion group

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- Prerequisite: No prior knowledge is necessary but an interest in languages is a must!
- Antirequisite: Linguistics 2288A/B.
- This course is a prerequisite for subsequent linguistics courses in the Department of Anthropology and/or the Linguistics program

*This is a 'blended' course. Blended courses have both face-to-face and online instruction, as well as on-campus exams. These course offerings are clearly identified by designated section numbers in the undergraduate academic calendar and lecture timetable. In the identified blended courses, at least 30% of student learning integral to the course occurs in the online interactive learning environment.*

*Note: This outline may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.*

**I. Course Objectives**

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language: how it works, patterns, structures, processes of change. Linguists study language as a system of thought and communication by examining particular languages and comparing them. In this course, students will learn the basic concepts in the main areas of linguistics: phonetics (sound systems), phonology (sound patterns), morphology (word formation), syntax (sentence structure) and semantics (word and sentence meaning). In addition, we will explore the changes in language. This course trains students to recognize patterns in language and to solve analytical problems using both systematic and

creative thinking. Students will be introduced to many different languages as we examine similarities and differences among them.

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize linguistic patterns within and across languages.
2. Effectively analyze the structure of languages, as manifested in their phonological, morphological, syntactic, and/or semantic systems.
3. Express, assess, and defend analyses of linguistic data with clarity and rigor in standard written academic language.
4. Use linguistic terminology to explain language phenomena.

## **III. Books**

Required:

*Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: an introduction*, 8th edition. Edited by William O'Grady and John Archibald (2016) Pearson/Longman: Toronto.

Additional readings (available either online, on reserve at Weldon Library, to be announced later) as required.

Optional:

*Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: an introduction, study guide*, 8th edition. Edited by William O'Grady and John Archibald, prepared by Teresa Merrells (2016) Pearson/Longman: Toronto.

## **IV. Course Requirements**

### ***Tutorial Exercises 15% (1.5% each)***

There are ten tutorial exercises that will be assigned on Tuesday in lecture each week to be handed in on Thursday online. Late assignments will be accepted up until Tuesday for half the credit. These exercises will be marked for completeness, not correctness.

### ***Homework Assignments 15% (5% each)***

There are three homework assignments due throughout the semester. Homework must be submitted at the beginning (within the first 10 minutes) of class. Late homework will be penalized 5% per business day and will only be accepted until Thursday (15% penalty); it should be dropped off at the Anthropology drop box. If you are going to miss class, homework must be submitted through the Anthropology drop box beside the main office before the class when the assignment is due. Make sure to put your first and last name and the professor's name on your assignment. Electronic submissions of assignments will not be accepted for homework assignments.

You may submit handwritten homework assignments if you find the linguistic symbols and diagrams too difficult or tedious to reproduce by computer. Make sure your writing is neat;

illegible assignments will not be marked. Multi-page assignments must be stapled using one staple in the upper left hand corner of the page. Failure to follow these submission requirements will result in our refusal to accept your assignment. Please purchase a stapler now if you do not already own one.

### ***Midterm Exam 35%***

The midterm will take place during class time on **October 31** in our regular classroom. There will be no make-up test unless you provide documentation from Academic Counseling. Students arriving more than 30 minutes after the exam has begun will not be admitted.

Details about the format of the exam will be given in class.

### ***Final Exam 35%***

The exam will be administered according to the final exam schedule, date TBA. Conflicts with other exams will be dealt with according to policy. It will be a 3-hour exam focusing on material learned after the midterm exam; however, you will be expected to use what you have learned from the first half of the course when relevant. Details about the final exam will be given in class. No makeups will be administered unless the proper procedures are followed. Likewise, students needing special accommodations must follow the proper channels. **WARNING: DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER UNTIL YOU HAVE THE EXAM SCHEDULE IN HAND.** "I have a vacation already booked" is not a justification for a makeup exam.

## **V. Grading Structure**

Your grade will be based on the cumulative sum of points you earn in the areas outlined above. It's as simple as that. If you would like to know your grade at any point in the term, simply keep a running total of your accumulated points and compare them to the number of points possible at that point. I will be happy to confirm your point total at any time. This can also be checked through the Gradebook on Owl.

## **VI. Grading Philosophy**

*Your grade is your responsibility, not ours*

Your grade in this course is up to you, as much as we can make it so. We encourage you to talk to us, and to each other, in order to ensure that you understand the course material. If you have additional concerns about how you can ensure that you earn the grade you are hoping to earn in this course, please consult us for suggestions. If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please communicate with us about your concerns - and be a strong advocate for yourself! We promise that we will not be mad at you because you argue a grade.

*Grades are not personal statements about your intrinsic worth; they are accurate and fair-minded assessments of the objective merits of your work at a particular time and place.*

While we are kind and sympathetic, we will not respond well to arguments about your grade that are based on anything other than the merits of your particular assignment. The smartest people in the world sometimes get poor grades - and the less-than-smartest sometimes get As. Your grade is not an index of your intelligence or of our beliefs about your intelligence.

*The grade you earn is in no way required to be the grade you "need". Similarly, the grade you earn does not have anything to do with other grades you have earned in the past.*

Need (due to financial aid status, athletics, or any other such requirement) is not an appropriate criterion for us to use in figuring your grade in this course. Neither is the fact that you are "an 'A'

student", generally speaking. Please limit your discussion of grades in this course to the quality and quantity of work you do for this course - and we'll do the same! The grade you earn ought to be proportional to your willingness to do the course work in this class.

Note also that you will not be able to do well in this course unless you are willing to (a) attend regularly; (b) participate fully, (c) think really hard about the material, even if you find it confusing or difficult, and (d) do the work, regardless of how bored/frustrated you are with it. If you are doing all these things, and you are still concerned about your grade, then please see us for suggestions and assistance. If you are not doing all these things, please accept a lower grade and move on – that's precisely what low grades were intended for!

The grade you earn in this class ought to reflect your performance on the assignments, and not your availability to do extra credit work outside of class when you blow off the real assignments so there are no extra credit assignments.

## **VI. Course Policies**

### **Attendance**

Attendance and participation in lecture and tutorials is fundamental to your learning experience. You must come to lectures having read the assigned material. Lectures will not simply repeat the content of the readings, but instead will be designed to get you thinking about the ideas and reinforce particularly difficult concepts. Students arriving late should enter quietly and take the first available seat, making every effort not to disturb the class or the instructor. Students are encouraged to participate in the online discussion forums.

### **Use of Electronic Devices (including laptops)**

No electronic devices of any kind (including but not limited to cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, other MP3 players, voice recorders, etc.) will be allowed during tests and examinations. Laptops may only be used during lectures for note taking or other course-related purposes; cell phones, iPods, MP3 players and other such devices are not to be used during class. Voice recorders (digital or tape) are not allowed without express permission.

### **Deadlines and missed exams – medical accommodation**

Occasionally illness or other medical issues make it impossible to meet deadlines or to take exams as scheduled. In such cases, adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counseling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified on the Academic Policies page on the Anthropology website using the link provided below. Providing such documentation is submitted, reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation. If such documentation is not provided, assignments cannot be accepted.

### **Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences**

While you are encouraged to study together, you must submit your own original work for the assignments. More information is discussed using the link below:

#### **Academic Policies**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at: [http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course\\_information/academic\\_policies.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html)

## VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

### Weekly Schedule (*subject to change at any time*)

Check the course website on OWL at least once a week for announcements and further information on assignments. Answers to common questions may also be posted there. Feel free to contribute to discussion threads posted by your classmates or to add your own.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1	Tues: Sept 12	Introduction to Linguistics	Ch. 1	
2	Tues: Sept 1	Phonetics	Ch.2	Tutorial exercises 1
3	Tues: Sept 26	Phonetics/phonology	Ch. 2, Ch. 3	Tutorial exercises 2
4	Tues: Oct 3	Phonology	Ch. 3	Tutorial exercises 3
5	Oct 9-13	READING WEEK		
6	Tues: Oct 17	Morphology	Ch. 4	Tutorial exercises 4
7	Tues: Oct 24	Morphology	Ch. 4	<b>Homework 1</b> Tutorial exercises 5
8	Tues: Oct 31	MIDTERM EXAM		
9	Tues: Nov 7	Syntax	Ch. 5	Tutorial exercises 6
10	Tues: Nov 14	Syntax	Ch. 5	<b>Homework 2</b> Tutorial exercises 7
11	Tues: Nov 21	Semantics	Ch. 6	Tutorial exercises 8
12	Tues: Nov 28	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	Tutorial exercises 9
13	Tues: Dec 5	Review		<b>Homework 3</b> Tutorial exercises 10