

Anthropology 1027b, section 001
Introduction to Linguistics
University of Western Ontario
Winter 2012
Monday 9:30-12:30, NCB114

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

Introduction

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.

Required Books

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 11th Edition. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press.

Allocation of Marks

Homework (4)	30%
Midterm exam	35%
Final exam	35%

Homework Assignments

There are **4** homework assignments worth **7.5%** each. Homework must be submitted at the beginning (within the first 5 minutes) of class. Late homework will not be accepted unless you provide documentation from Academic Counselling. 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 (time of submission is stamped on the assignment by the Anthropology Department). Make sure to put your first and last name and the professor's name on your assignment.

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 and legible. Illegible assignments will not be marked.

Midterm Exam (35%)

The midterm will take place during class time on **Feb 27** in our regular classroom. There will be no make-up test unless you provide documentation from Academic Counselling. 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.

Electronic devices of any sort (mobile phones, PDAs, laptops, mp3 players, digital cameras, translation devices, etc.) are not allowed in the classroom during the test. Backpacks, purses, bags, coats, etc. must be left at the front of the class and it is important that nothing of value be contained in these items. Pens, pencils, erasers and your student i.d. are the only items you should have with you at your desk.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam will take place after classes have finished. The date, time and place will be set by the Registrar's Office. 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.

Classroom Policies, Expectations and Grades

Students who require special accommodations for disabilities should make a formal request through Student Development Services as early in the semester as possible (call 661-2147).

Attendance and participation in class is fundamental to your learning experience. You must come to class 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. Lectures also provide opportunities for you to ask questions and make sure you are prepared to complete your assignments. Remember, we only meet once a week, so missing a class means missing an entire week of the course.

Students arriving late should enter quietly and take the first available seat, making every effort not to disturb the class or the instructor.

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones must be turned off during class. Electronic distractions will not be tolerated.

While you are encouraged to study together, you must submit your own original work for the assignments. The university has the following policy if you are using outside sources:

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at the following website: <<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>>."

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 the professor or TA for suggestions and

assistance. If you are not doing all these things, please accept a lower grade and move on. If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please communicate with us about your concerns - and be a strong advocate for yourself! If you argue a grade, we will be sympathetic but we will not respond well to arguments about your grade that are based on anything other than the merits of your particular assignment (such as need or past performance).

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	Jan 9	Introduction to Linguistics	1.0 → 1.5	
2	Jan 16	Phonetics	2.0 → 2.5	
3	Jan 23	Phonetics		
4	Jan 30	Phonology	3.0, 3.1, 3.5	Homework 1
5	Feb 6	Phonology	3.2 → 3.4	
6	Feb 13	Morphology	4.0 → 4.3 4.4, 4.5	Homework 2
-----	Feb 20	READING WEEK		
7	Feb 27	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	Mar 5	Syntax	5.0 → 5.4	
9	Mar 12	Syntax	5.5 → 5.6	
10	Mar 19	Semantics	6.0 → 6.5	Homework 3
11	Mar 26	Language Change	13.0→13.6	
12	Apr 2	Language Change	13.7	Homework 4
13	Apr 9	Review		