

ANTHROPOLOGY 1027A-650

Introduction to Linguistics

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2025

Online Asynchronous course

This course is 12 weeks and runs from January 6 – April 4, 2025.

Credit value: 0.5

Instructor

Olga Kharytonava (she/her)

Email: vkharyt@uwo.ca

Office hours will be announced on the Brightspace course site.

Calendar Course Description

Introduction to basic concepts and methods of modern linguistics. Topics include articulatory and acoustic phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. This course is a prerequisite for subsequent linguistics courses in the Department of Anthropology and/or the Linguistics program.

Antirequisites: Linguistics 2288A/B.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Syllabus

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.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize linguistic patterns within and across languages.
- Effectively analyze the structure of languages, as manifested in their phonological, morphological, syntactic, and/or semantic systems.
- Express, assess, and defend analyses of linguistic data with clarity and rigor in standard written academic language.

- Use linguistic terminology to explain language phenomena.
- Develop a simulation of a language system modeled on other languages

Course Materials:

Required: Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: an introduction, 9th edition. Edited by William O’Grady and John Archibald (2020) Pearson/Longman: Toronto. [Link to the publisher](#) (paper or etextbook)

Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.

- **Optional:** Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: an introduction, study guide, 9th edition. Edited by William O’Grady and John Archibald, prepared by Teresa Merrells (2020) Pearson/Longman: Toronto. CA \$31.90

Evaluation:

Weekly Exercises – 15% (1.5% each, the lowest will be dropped)

2 Homework Assignments – 25% (Assignment 1 = 10%, Assignment 2 = 15%)

2 Tests – 25% (Test 1 - 10%, Test 2 - 15%)

Final Assignment – 35%

Bonus Marks – 3%

Weekly Exercises

There will be 11 Weekly Exercises in Brightspace, and you are allowed to miss one of them. They will be open on Monday 9am EST and have to be completed by Thursday 11.55pm EST. Students are permitted to submit their work by Friday 11.55pm EST without penalty. The answers will be available on Monday 9am EST. No make-up will be available for the Weekly Exercises, meaning that a missed exercise will automatically receive a 0 and will count as your lowest (and so dropped) grade. It is highly recommended that you complete them on Wednesday/Thursday and check the correct answers on Friday. They will be graded for completeness, not correctness. You are encouraged to attend the office hours to ask clarification questions about these exercises.

Homework Assignments

There are two homework assignments due throughout the term. Homework must be submitted electronically on Brightspace by 11.55pm EST of the Friday of the week indicated on the schedule unless otherwise specified. Follow the instructions very closely and submit the files in the required format. This assignment has a flexible deadline: students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade and will be accepted until maximum 7 days past the original deadlines, or 5 days after the extended deadline. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration **will not be granted**. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline. You need to 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.

Electronic attachments must be all in one document and not attached as separate images. Failure to follow these submission requirements will result in our refusal to accept your assignment. *Please note that these two assessments are central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with an opportunity to make up this work by arranging a date for their assignment submission that does not exceed 10 days after the original submission.*

Tests

There will be two online Tests throughout the term. Tests are graded for accuracy and will include the content practiced in the course. They will open on the Tuesday of the week specified in the schedule at 9am and will close at 11.55pm. You will be given 60min to complete Test 1 and 90 min to complete Test 2, and you will only have 1 attempt to do it.

Bonus Marks

You will be invited to attend guest lectures and submit an assignment of a bonus mark. More information will be announced to you in Week 4 of the course.

Final Assignment

The final assignment is a cumulative assignment, where you will be asked to apply all the analytical skills you have learned throughout the course. The date for the final assignment will be announced later in the course. This assignment will take a well-prepared student 4 hours to complete.

Course Policies and Statements:

Statement on Confidentiality

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Students may not use generative AI or other tools to assist in writing papers (e.g., **ChatGPT, Google summarizer, Google translate, or other tools**). Using AI-tools to help write your paper is no different than asking your roommate to do it or buying a pre-written paper. If unsure, students are strongly encouraged to contact their instructor for more information. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

General Information about missed work

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found [here](#).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#).

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious Accommodation

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more **than 5 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test**. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a

Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. **Students may not use ChatGPT, Youtube or Google as additional resources.** If unsure, students are strongly encouraged their instructor for more information. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Institutional Statements and 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 in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

Calendar (Subject to change at any time). Check Brightspace often.

Weeks	Lessons	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 Jan 6-10	Unit 1	Introduction to Linguistics	Ch. 1	
Week 2 Jan 13-17	Unit 2	Phonetics	Ch. 2	WE 1 (Thurs)
Week 3 Jan 20-24	Unit 3	Phonetics/phonology	Ch. 2, Ch. 3	WE 2 (Thurs)
Week 4 Jan 27-31	Unit 4	Phonology	Ch. 3	WE 3 (Thurs)
Week 5 Feb 10-14	Unit 5	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 4 (Thurs) Test 1 - Tuesday
Feb 17-21	Reading Week			
Week 6 Feb 24-28	Unit 6	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 5 (Thurs)
Week 7 March 3-7	Unit 7	Morphophonology	Ch. 4	WE 6 (Thurs) Homework 1 - due Friday
Week 8 March 10-14	Unit 8	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 7 (Thurs)

Week 9 March 17-21	Unit 9	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 8 (Thurs)
Week 10 March 24-28	Unit 10	Semantics	Ch. 6	WE 9 (Thurs) Test 2 online - Tuesday
Week 11 March 31-Apr 1	Unit 11	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 10 (Thurs)
Week 12 April 7-11	Unit 12	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 11 (Thurs) Homework 2 – due Friday

~ END ~