

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 1027A-650 - Introduction to Linguistics

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2023

Version date: September 13, 2023

Instructor and Course Information:

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Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisite: Linguistics 2288A/B.

Prerequisite: None.

Course Description

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:

Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: an introduction, 9th edition. Edited by William O'Grady and John Archibald (2019) Pearson/Longman: Toronto.

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.

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 OWL, 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. The answers will be available on Friday 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 OWL 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. Late homework will be penalized 5% per business day and will only be accepted until Tuesday (15% penalty). 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.

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 2 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 Academic Statements:

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students

with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

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.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students should note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

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.

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

Weeks	Lessons	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 Sept 7-8	Unit 1	Introduction to Linguistics	Ch. 1	
Week 2 Sept 11-15	Unit 2	Phonetics	Ch. 2	WE 1 (Thurs)

Week 3 Sept 18-22	Unit 3	Phonetics/phonology	Ch. 2, Ch. 3	WE 2 (Thurs)
Week 4 Sept 25-29	Unit 4	Phonology	Ch. 3	WE 3 (Thurs)
Week 5 Oct 2-6	Unit 5	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 4 (Thurs) Test 1 - Tuesday
Week 6 Oct 9-13	Unit 6	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 5 (Thurs)
Week 7 Oct 16-20	Unit 7	Morphophonology	Ch. 4	WE 6 (Thurs) Homework 1 - due Friday
Week 8 Oct 23-27	Unit 8	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 7 (Thurs)
October 30 – November 3: Reading Week				
Week 9 Nov 6-10	Unit 9	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 8 (Thurs)
Week 10 Nov 13-17	Unit 10	Semantics	Ch. 6	WE 9 (Thurs) Test 2 online - Tuesday
Week 11 Nov 20-24	Unit 11	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 10 (Thurs)
Week 12 Nov 27-Dec 1	Unit 12	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 11 (Thurs) Homework 2 - due Friday
Week 13 Dec 4-8		Review before Exam		

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