

ANTHROPOLOGY 1027A-650

Introduction to Linguistics

COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2021

This course is 6 weeks and runs from May 3 – June 11, 2021.

Credit value: 0.5

Instructor

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Office hours will be announced on the OWL 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:

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

Evaluation:

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

3 Homework Assignments – 15%, 17%, 18%

Final Assignment – 35%

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 three homework assignments due throughout the term. Homework must be submitted electronically on OWL by 11.55pm EST of the Sunday 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 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. 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.

Group Project

In this assignment, you will apply the theoretical knowledge you learned throughout the course and put it into practice by creating a simulated language system modeling it based on the systems of other languages. Different components of the group projects will be due at different times and all the group members will be required to check in regularly. You will also be required to complete the readings on the effectiveness of team work, and you will evaluate your peers as well as your own contributions.

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, including those gained from your participation in the group project. The final assignment will open on June 16th at 5pm and will be due on June 20 at 11.55pm. 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. 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.

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](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students have one opportunity in summer courses to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for final exams,
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also 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. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the [Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#).

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:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 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.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. 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 OWL often.

Weeks	Lessons	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 May 3-7	Unit 1	Introduction to Linguistics	Ch. 1	
	Unit 2	Phonetics	Ch. 2	WE 1 (Thurs)
Week 2 May 10-14	Unit 3	Phonetics/phonology	Ch. 2, Ch. 3	WE 2 (Thurs)
	Unit 4	Phonology	Ch. 3	WE 3 (Thurs) Homework Assignment 1 (Sun)
Week 3 May 17-21	Unit 5	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 4 (Thurs)
	Unit 6	Morphology	Ch. 4	WE 5 (Thurs)

Week 4 May 24-28	Unit 7	Morphophonology	Ch. 4	WE 6 (Thurs)
	Unit 8	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 7 (Thurs) Homework Assignment 2 (Sun)
Week 5 May 31- June 4	Unit 9	Syntax	Ch. 5	WE 8 (Thurs)
	Unit 10	Semantics	Ch. 6	WE 9 (Thurs)
Week 6 June 7-11	Unit 11	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 10 (Thurs)
	Unit 12	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 8	WE 11 (Thurs) Homework Assignment 3 (Fri)

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