

Introduction to Linguistics

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classroom	Guggenheim 220 (seating capacity 345)
lectures	MWF 2:30-3:20
class website	http://courses.washington.edu/lingclas/200/200.html

1 Learning objectives of the course

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the theory and analysis of human language as a rule-governed system.

Most of the course will be devoted to surveying the “core” areas of linguistics: phonetics and phonology (the form and patterning of speech sounds and signs), morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), and semantics (word and sentence meaning). In the core areas of the course you will be introduced to some of the variation found in human languages, as well as the tools that linguists use to analyze language. Knowledge of core linguistics is necessary to understand all subsequent topics of the course, which will include social influences on language, ways languages change over time, computational linguistics, language and the brain, and first language acquisition.

During this course you will also learn some facts about various languages, some well known (English, Spanish, German, American Sign Language) and some not so well known (Sahaptin, Witsuwit'en, Tsek'ene, Deg Xinag).

2 Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to LING 200.

In addition to LING 200, other introductory courses in linguistics are taught at UW: LING 400, ENGL 390, ASIAN 401, and SPHSC 303. If you have already had another introduction to linguistics, please don't take this class.

3 TA sections

Sections, taught by your TAs (graduate students in Linguistics), meet on Tuesday and Thursday.

TA	e-mail (@u.washington.edu)
Dan McCloy	drmccloy
Jamie Andrus	jnandrus
Sarah Churng	ashra
Yulia Galperina-Radu	galperi

section	section time	section room	seating capacity	TA
AA	8:30-9:20	MUS 219	30	McCloy
AB	8:30-9:20	MEB 251	30	Andrus
AC	9:30-10:20	DEN 315	35	McCloy
AD	9:30-10:20	HGT DS005	45	Churng
AE	10:30-11:20	BLM 309	50	Churng
AF	11:30-12:20	LOW 216	50	Galperina-Radu
AG	12:30-1:20	LOW 102	50	Andrus
AH	12:30-1:20	LOW 202	30	Galperina-Radu
			320	

Your TA will announce his/her office hours and other administrative information during the first week of classes. TA offices are in Art 333 and 337 (unless your TA tells you differently). TA mailboxes are in A210 Padelford (main office of Department of Linguistics). The Linguistics Department main office (A210 Padelford) is normally open 8-5, Monday-Friday. If the office is closed and you need to drop off something for your TA, there is a mail slot to the right of the door. If you must use the mail slot to drop something off for your TA, be sure your TA's name is written clearly on your paper.

4 CLUE sessions

The Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment is sponsoring a CLUE session for this class. These will take place on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 pm, beginning week 2 of the quarter. They will be run by Dan Jinguji (danjj@u.washington.edu), a grad student in Linguistics.

5 Required materials

Our textbook is:

Bergmann, Anouschka, Kathleen Currie Hall and Sharon Miriam Ross (eds.) *Language Files*. 10th edition. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

6 Grading and required work

We will be using Gradebook to keep track of student grades. You will be able to monitor our records for you and keep track of how you are doing in the class.

Your final grade will be based on the following:

midterm exam	25%
final exam	35%
quizzes	7%
homework	23%
participation in lectures and sections	10%

6.1 Homework

Homework will normally be announced on Friday and will be due the following Thursday in section.

You must turn in the original copy of your homework. No photo-copied assignments will be accepted, although as with any other class, it is always a good idea to keep a photo-copy of any assignment you turn in.

The lowest score on the homework will be dropped from a student's average.

Illegible work will not be accepted. Typing is encouraged for all students, and may be required by your TA.

6.2 Quizzes

There will be a series of on-line quizzes about the reading assignments through WebQ, one of the Catalyst tools. Normally, quizzes will open on Friday morning and close on Wednesday morning. (See §9 for exact times.) The URLs for the quizzes will change every time. They will be e-mailed to you and will also be posted on the course website.

6.3 Exams

The midterm and final will be multiple choice exams. You will need to purchase a Standard Answer Sheet for both the midterm and final. You will also need to bring a pencil and eraser to the exams.

You will not be allowed to keep a copy of the midterm and final questions, although you can come by your TA's office and look at the exams after the fact. Midterm results will also be extensively discussed in section.

The midterm exam will cover the course through the syntax unit. The final exam will cover the entire course.

6.4 Participation

The participation grade will be based on:

- (lectures) answers to two-minute questions handed in at the end of lecture. You will hand these in to your TA on the way out of lecture, but they will be read by your professor. You will not get these back, but some of your answers will be mentioned in the next lecture.
- (section) contribution to discussion of class material, group exercises, and other section activities

7 Grading scale

The exams and homework will each be worth a certain number of points. In calculating your final grade, the points earned on exams and homework will be weighted according to the percentages given in §6. Final grades will then be calculated on the basis of the following shifted linear scale, where 100% represents the highest points earned by some student in the class (rather than the highest points possible).

Percent = grade

91% = 4.0	84 = 3.3	76 = 2.6	69 = 1.8	62 = 1.1
90 = 3.9	83 = 3.2	75 = 2.5	68 = 1.7	61 = 1.0
89 = 3.8	82 = 3.1	74 = 2.4	67 = 1.6	60 = 0.9
88 = 3.7	81 = 3.0	73 = 2.3	66 = 1.5	59 = 0.8
87 = 3.6	79 = 2.9	72 = 2.1	65 = 1.4	58 = 0.7
86 = 3.5	78 = 2.8	71 = 2.0	64 = 1.3	
85 = 3.4	77 = 2.7	70 = 1.9	63 = 1.2	

Note that according to this system, every student could in principle receive a 4.0 in this class.

Here are some statistics on grades from Spring 2006: 10% of the students did not pass the class. 13% received a grade between 0.7 and 1.9 (this last bit of information is relevant to those thinking of taking the class S/NS). The mean on the midterm was 68, and on the final 72. What you should learn from these statistics is that many students find this a challenging class. A lot of material (which you will be tested on) is covered in section and lecture (including video clips). The best way you can ensure success in this class is to read the textbook, and attend lecture and section regularly.

8 Class policies

8.1 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. Guidelines and definitions of different kinds of cheating are described in the document ‘Academic Honesty: Cheating and Plagiarism’ (<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>). This website also contains links to the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (<http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>). It would be good to read these documents if you have never done so.

8.2 Electronic devices in lecture

We strive to provide an environment which is conducive to learning. Everyone should turn off their cell phones at the beginning of lecture. (We will try to remind you.) We would like those who use a laptop during lecture to sit in the bottom rows of the lecture hall.

8.3 Exams

No early exams will be provided under any circumstances.

Make-up exams will only be provided for university-sanctioned events (verification will be required and the request must be made within the first week of the quarter). Make-up exams may also be provided when there is illness or death in the family (but a physician's or funeral director's note will be required).

Do not even think about trying to cheat on the exams. If we suspect you of cheating during an exam, you will be forced to sit at the front of the room for the remainder of the exam. If we catch you cheating, we will refer your case to the office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences. See definitions and consequences of academic misconduct in links provided in 8.1.

8.4 Homework

All work that you turn in should be exclusively your own. If we think that one person is doing the work for several, everyone involved will receive a score of zero for a particular assignment.

Unless superceded by instructions from your TA, homework must be turned in within the first five minutes of section. Homework turned in after the first five minutes during section will receive a 10% grade penalty. No homework will be accepted after section ends.

Because the grade on the lowest homework assignment will be dropped, there will be no opportunities to make up a missed homework assignment.

8.5 Quizzes

It is your responsibility to keep track of the on-line quiz opening and closing dates. Any deviations from the schedule in §9 will be announced via e-mail, in class or posted on the class web site. It is also your responsibility to make sure that your results have been submitted properly to Catalyst. After a quiz closes, there is nothing we can do for you.

8.6 Special needs

If you need accommodation in this class because of a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 543-8924 (voice), 543-8925 (TTY), uwdss@u.washington.edu. If you already have a letter from DSS, please present it to both your professor and your TA so we can make the proper accommodations for you.

8.7 E-mail

If you send me e-mail for any reason, you must cc your TA. Otherwise, do not expect an answer.

9 Schedule

This is the current schedule of topics covered in the class, subject to change. Unless otherwise announced, quizzes will open at 9 am on Fridays and close at 9 am on Wednesdays.

week	date	day	topic	reading	quiz/hw
1	1-5	Mon	Syllabus; what is linguistics?	1.1-1.3, 1.5	
	1-6	Tues			
	1-7	Wed	What is (human) language? Design features.	1.4, 14.1- 14.2	
	1-8	Thurs			
	1-9	Fri	Film: <i>The Human Language</i>		quiz 1 opens
2	1-12	Mon	Phonetics: articulation, consonants	2.1, 2.2	
	1-13	Tues			
	1-14	Wed	Phonetics: vowels	2.3, 2.4	quiz 1 closes
	1-15	Thurs			HW 1 due
	1-16	Fri	Phonology: streamlined phonetic transcription	3.0, 3.1	quiz 2 opens
3	1-19	Mon	HOLIDAY		
	1-20	Tues			
	1-21	Wed	Phonology: more on allophones and phonemes, phonological rules	3.2, 3.5	quiz 2 closes
	1-22	Thurs			HW 2 due
	1-23	Fri	Phonology: phonotactics and phonological rules	3.3, 3.4	quiz 3 opens
4	1-26	Mon	Morphology: word formation	4.1, 4.5	
	1-27	Tues			
	1-28	Wed	Morphology: lexical category	5.3	quiz 3 closes
	1-29	Thurs			HW 3 due
	1-30	Fri	Morphology: morphological processes, word structure	4.2, 4.4	quiz 4 opens
5	2-2	Mon	Syntax: word order vs. constituency	5.1, 5.2, 5.4	
	2-3	Tues			
	2-4	Wed	Syntax: more on constituent structure tests	5.5	quiz 4 closes
	2-5	Thurs			HW 4 due
	2-6	Fri	ASL: guest lecture by Lance Forshay	2.7	quiz 5 opens
6	2-9	Mon	Syntax: word order typology	5.6	
	2-10	Tues			

	2-11	Wed	Semantics	6.0-6.5	quiz 5 closes
	2-12	Thurs			HW 5 due
	2-13	Fri	MIDTERM		quiz 6 opens
7	2-16	Mon	HOLIDAY		
	2-17	Tues			
	2-18	Wed	Sociolinguistics: language variation	10.0-10.4	quiz 6 closes
	2-19	Thurs			
	2-20	Fri	Sociolinguistics: language attitudes	13.1	quiz 7 opens
8	2-23	Mon	Historical: language families and isolates, proto-languages	12.0, 12.2	
	2-24	Tues			
	2-25	Wed	Historical: language change	12.1, 12.3-12.6	quiz 7 closes
	2-26	Thurs			HW 6 due
	2-27	Fri	Historical: reconstruction and prehistory	12.7	quiz 8 opens
9	3-2	Mon	Language contact	11.0-11.5, 13.2	
	3-3	Tues			
	3-4	Wed	Endangered languages	11.6	quiz 8 closes
	3-5	Thurs			HW 7 due
	3-6	Fri	Computational linguistics: guest lecture by Emily Bender	15.0-15.5	quiz 9 opens
10	3-9	Mon	Neurolinguistics	9.1-9.2	
	3-10	Tues			
	3-11	Wed	First language acquisition	8.0-8.3	quiz 9 closes
	3-12	Thurs			HW 8 due
	3-13	Fri	Language and thought. Summary of course. Course evaluations	13.3	
Finals	3-17	Tues	Final exam: 2:30-4:20		

quiz based on *Files*

1 1.1-1.5, 14.1-14.2, 2.1-2.2

2 2.3-2.4, 3.0-3.1

3	3.2-3.5, 4.1, 4.5
4	4.2, 4.4, 5.1-5.4
5	2.7, 5.5-5.6
6	6.0-6.5
7	10.0-10.4, 12.0, 12.2, 13.1
8	12.1, 12.3-12.6, 11.0-11.5, 13.2
9	11.6, 15.0-15.5, 9.1-9.2