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LING 470.01: Linguistic Analysis

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Linguistic Analysis
LING 470
The University of Montana

Autumn 2013
Instructor: Dr. Leora Bar-el

COURSE OUTLINE

I've always found the study of language intriguing. I had a linguistics professor who always said, "It's man's ability to use language that makes him the dominant species on the planet." I wouldn't go that far. I think what sets us apart from other animals is that we aren't afraid of vacuum cleaners. – Jeff Stilson (comedian)

Instructor information

✉ <leora.bar-el@umontana.edu>

☎ 243-2387

📍 Social Science 210

🕒 Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00am-12:00pm, or by appointment

Course meeting times and venue

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:40am-11:00am

Liberal Arts 203

Course objectives

This course focuses on linguistic analysis. We will look at the formal properties of language and the ways in which these properties are studied by linguists, concentrating on five core components of linguistic analysis: *phonetics* (sounds of language), *phonology* (sound patterns), *morphology* (word structure), *syntax* (sentence structure), and *semantics* (meaning). We will be looking at data from a variety of languages across the world. We will be asking questions such as “What does it mean to know a language?” and “In what ways are languages the same/different?”.

Prerequisite

This course has no prerequisites, though an interest in language is an asset!

Moodle

This course has an online supplement Moodle site, which can be accessed at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/> (follow the Moodle login links). Lecture slides, worksheets, homework, assignments, sound/video files, links, etc. will be posted there for downloading. Links to Student Resources and Tech Support http://umonline.umt.edu/tech_support/ are available at the login page. Please inform me if you have any problems accessing the site.

Course Structure

The content of this course is **cumulative** so it is important that you keep up to date with the material (though reading ahead in your textbook is just fine). This course is divided into **five modules** the topics of which correspond to Chapters 2-6 of O'Grady et al. (your main textbook). A short introduction will be presented in Week 1 – see also Chapter 1 of the textbook). The final week of the course will be devoted to a wrap-up and review of the course material prior to your final exam. For each Module you will be required to read the corresponding chapter in your textbook.

Class meetings will include powerpoint lecture presentations, practice exercises, and homework/assignment review. Lecture slides and other materials will be available for downloading from the Moodle site in the afternoon following the class it is presented/distributed.

Throughout the course, you will be required to complete practice exercises in order to help you put the skills you are learning into practice. Some of these will be done in class and some of these will be assigned for you to complete on your own. In addition, you are required to submit **five homework exercises** (see schedule below). Completing these exercises is not only a requirement of the course (each is worth 2% of your final grade), but will ensure that you are keeping up with and understanding the introduced material prior to completing the formal assignments. Answers to homework exercises will be reviewed in the class they are due, so be sure that you have an **extra copy of your completed homework** that you can refer to during the review.

There are **four assignments**, which will be graded, that you are required to complete and submit during this course. They cover the first four topics of this course (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax). There is no assignment for the semantics module, though the semantics module will be covered on your final exam.

Learning Outcomes

Each of the assessed components of this course focuses on helping you achieve the learning outcomes of this course. Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- (a) understand the methods that linguists use to study the formal properties of language,
- (b) be able to make generalizations about data from familiar and unfamiliar languages,
- (c) be able to formulate and test a hypothesis,
- (d) have the foundation needed to take further courses in linguistics.

Learning outcomes by module

MODULE	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT
PHONETICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transcribe English words and phrases using the International Phonetic Alphabet • Provide articulatory descriptions of sounds in all natural languages • Discover natural classes of sounds in languages and in particular languages • Understand suprasegmental features such as pitch, length and stress 	HW 1 ASSIGN 1 Final exam
PHONOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover phonemes and allophones in familiar and unfamiliar languages • Discover phonological processes observed across languages • Write phonological rules that account for allophonic variation • Understand the hierarchical structure of syllables 	HW 2 ASSIGN 2 Final exam
MORPHOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover morphemes and allomorphs in familiar and unfamiliar languages • Discover morphological processes across languages • Understand the hierarchical structure of morphologically complex words • Identify derivational and inflectional morphemes across languages 	HW 3 ASSIGN 3 Final exam
SYNTAX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and discover syntactic categories in familiar/unfamiliar languages • Understand the hierarchical structure of sentences and the phrase structure rules that regulate them and represent those structures in phrase structure trees • Discover constituents and the parts of the phrase they consist of • Analyze the syntactic structure of familiar and unfamiliar languages 	HW 4 ASSIGN 4 Final exam
SEMANTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the ways in which semanticists describe the literal meaning of words, phrases and sentences. • Analyze how semantic meaning of a unit of language is determined by its parts. • Understand how meaning can be affected by context (pragmatics) 	HW 5 Final exam

Assessment (undergraduate)

Participation		10%
Homework	(5 x 2% each)	10%
Assignments	(4 x 12.5% each)	50%
Final exam		30%

- **Participation** includes attendance, assigned readings, practice exercises, introductory questionnaire answering/asking questions in-class, etc.
- **Homework** consists of exercises that you are required to submit for assessment. They are assessed for effort and completeness (rather than “correct” answers alone). Homework is due at the **beginning of class** on the date specified in the schedule, unless otherwise noted. They will be reviewed in the class that they are due so be sure to also bring an extra copy that you can refer to. (See submission instructions in the Course Policies and Procedures section of this outline)
- **Assignments** will be posted online at the end of each of the first four modules and will review the material covered in the module. They are due at the **beginning of class** on the date specified in the schedule, unless otherwise noted. Always keep a copy of your submitted work. (See submission instructions in the Course Policies and Procedures section of this outline)
- The **final exam** will take place during finals week on **Thursday December 12, 10:10am-12:10pm**.
- **Plagiarism** is an offence and is not tolerated. You are welcome (and encouraged!) to work together with classmates, but you **must** write up your submitted work (i.e., homework and assignments) **on your own**.

Assessment (graduate)

Participation		10%
Homework	(5 x 2% each)	10%
Assignments	(4 x 12.5% each)	50%
Final exam		25%
Squib		5%

In addition to the assessment for undergraduate students, graduate students are required to write a 5-page squib. Squibs are due in my office by **10:00am Tuesday December 10**. Further information will be circulated to graduate students later in the term.

Grading criteria

A	90-100%	B	80-89%	C	70-79%	D	60-69%	F	Below 60%
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Required text

O’Grady, William, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, Janie Rees-Miller. 2010. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 6th Edition*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s. [a companion website is available at: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/linguistics6e/>]

- Make sure you have the assigned readings done **before** the relevant classes. Even if you do not understand all the material you read, it will be to your advantage to at least be familiar with the topic.

Optional texts

- The following books are not required, but you may find them useful resources:
 - Crystal, David. 2008. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics 6th edition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
 - Bauer, Laurie and Peter Trudgill (eds.). 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin Books.

Library Reserves

- This course has a Library Course Reserves webpage. From the Mansfield library main page: www.lib.umt.edu, go to the Reserves tab, scroll down to LING 470 and follow the link for a list of books on reserve for this course. Books on reserve are available from the Information Centre on the main floor of the library (Level 3). Should any other readings be assigned during the course they will be downloadable from our course Moodle site.
- There are three copies of our course textbook, *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 6th Edition*, on library reserve (one available on 24 hr checkout and two available on 48 hr checkout). The call number of the book is BA 503.
- Note that the Mansfield library has an electronic copy of *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics 6th Edition* (as well as the 5th edition). You can connect to these from the library catalogue: www.lib.umt.edu. The library also has circulating hard copies of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th editions.

Course Policies and Procedures

- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class and be an active participant. If you miss a class, inform me by e-mail as early as possible. I also urge you to contact a classmate to catch up on what you missed. An attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated in each class. It is **your** responsibility to make sure that you sign the sheet so that you are registered as being in class.
- **Respect:** Arrive to class on time! We will begin class promptly at 9:40am. You are responsible for all material covered, including announcements, questions/answers, etc., that may occur at the beginning of class. If you are late, please be courteous to your fellow classmates and me – avoid being disruptive. You can catch up on what you may have missed **after class**. If you anticipate being late to class regularly (e.g., due to a work schedule, a class on the other side of campus, etc.), let me know as soon as possible.
- **Student Conduct Code:** You are expected to be familiar with the *University of Montana Student Conduct Code*. “Being a student at UM presupposes a commitment to the principles and policies embodied in this Code.” The Conduct code is downloadable from the following website: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php. You are also expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Academic Policies and Procedures: <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>.
- **E-mail:** Throughout the semester, course information will be circulated by e-mail to your UM e-mail address. Make sure that you check that e-mail account often. **You are responsible for ensuring that you are able to receive any course information circulated by e-mail.** If you have any concerns about this, please speak to me.
- **Course Accommodations Statement (DSS):** If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modification in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services your responsibilities are to contact me to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.
- **Technical Requirements:** Using the Moodle learning environment requires your computer to be set up to view and download documents (.ppt, .doc, .pdf), webpages, etc. More information can be found on the UOnline Systems Requirements page: http://umonline.umt.edu/tech_support/system_requirements.php. Contact UOnline: 406-243-4999; http://umonline.umt.edu/tech_support for assistance.

- **Submitting homework and assignments:** Homework exercises and assignments must be submitted as a **hard copy** at the **beginning of class on the day they are due** (see proposed schedule below). Other than exercises assigned from your textbook, homework and assignments will be posted on the course Moodle site as both .pdf and .doc files. Download the .doc file, complete the homework/assignment electronically and then submit a printed copy in class. If you have any formatting/font concerns, use the .pdf version of the homework/assignment as reference; however, hand-written homework and assignments will not be accepted. **Double-sided copies are strongly preferred where possible. IMPORTANT:** see section below on fonts. **REMINDER:** you must bring an extra copy of your homework to class that you can refer to during in-class homework review.

Fonts

- In order to view the phonetic symbols in the .doc files and to use these symbols to complete your homework/assignments electronically, you must have a phonetic Unicode font installed on your computer. This course uses **DoulosSIL**, a free font available for both Mac and PC operating systems. The font can be downloaded from the following site:
http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=DoulosSIL_download#1fd0063a
- Instructions on how to download and install the fonts will vary depending on your computer and operating system. Some advice is available from the link below:
http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=DecompressUtil
- You may find websites such as <http://westonruter.github.io/ipa-chart/keyboard/> where you can copy and paste/insert phonetic symbols into your documents from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) useful. As well, I have posted on our course Moodle site a .doc file containing all the phonetic symbols needed to transcribe English which you can use to copy and paste/insert symbols into your documents.
- For your reference, further information on phonetic fonts and the web can be found at the following sites:
<http://www.alanwood.net/unicode/> <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/ipa-unicode.htm>

If you are having any trouble downloading fonts/viewing .doc files, please ask!



Proposed Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings*	Notes**
1	Tues	Aug. 27	Introduction	Ch. 1	
	Thurs	Aug. 29	Intro. (cont'd); Phonetics	Ch. 2	Questionnaire due
2	Tues	Sept. 3	Phonetics (cont'd)		
	Thurs	Sept. 5	Phonetics (cont'd)		
3	Tues	Sept. 10	Phonetics (cont'd)		Homework 1 due
	Thurs	Sept. 12	Phonetics (cont'd)		
4	Tues	Sept. 17	Phonology	Ch. 3	
	Thurs	Sept. 19	Phonology (cont'd)		Assignment 1 due
5	Tues	Sept. 24	Phonology (cont'd)		
	Thurs	Sept. 26	Phonology (cont'd)		
6	Tues	Oct. 1	Phonology (cont'd)		Homework 2 due
	Thurs	Oct. 3	Phonology (cont'd)		
7	Tues	Oct. 8	Morphology	Ch. 4	
	Thurs	Oct. 10	Morphology (cont'd)		Assignment 2 due
8	Tues	Oct. 15	Morphology (cont'd)		
	Thurs	Oct. 17	Morphology (cont'd)		
9	Tues	Oct. 22	Morphology (cont'd)		Homework 3 due
	Thurs	Oct. 24	Morphology (cont'd)		
10	Tues	Oct. 29	Syntax	Ch. 5	
	Thurs	Oct. 31	Syntax (cont'd)		Assignment 3 due
11	Tues	Nov. 5	Syntax (cont'd)		
	Thurs	Nov. 7	Syntax (cont'd)		
12	Tues	Nov. 12	Syntax (cont'd)		Homework 4 due
	Thurs	Nov. 14	Syntax (cont'd)		
13	Tues	Nov. 19	Semantics	Ch. 6	Assignment 4 due
	Thurs	Nov. 21	Semantics (cont'd)		
14	Tues	Nov. 26	Semantics (cont'd)		Homework 5 due
	Thurs	Nov. 28	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving		
15	Tues	Dec. 3	Wrap-up/Review		
	Thurs	Dec. 5	Review		

* “Ch.” refers to chapters from *Contemporary Linguistics 6th Edition* (O’Grady et al.)

** Homework and Assignments are due at the **beginning of class** on the date specified.