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University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025

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Spring 2-1-2022

### LING 270S.50: Introduction to Linguistics

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## I. CONTACT INFORMATION

### Professor

Irene Appelbaum  
Email: irene.appelbaum@umontana.edu  
Virtual Office Hrs by Appt:  
M, T, W, R 9AM-11AM Mtn Time  
(See Moodle for link to schedule)

### Teaching Assistant

Willard Wiseman  
Email: willard.wiseman@umontana.edu  
Virtual Office Hrs:  
M 4-5:30, W 10-11:30 & by Appt.  
(See Moodle for link)

### Moodle Course Access

This is a fully on-line course. All material (including lecture notes, readings, and assignments) will be posted on the Moodle website for this course. To access this website, go to <https://moodle.umt.edu/login/> and log-in with your NET ID. If this is your first experience using Moodle, you may want to visit [Moodle 101 for Students](#).

### Technical Support

Technical support for Moodle is available through the UM IT Help Desk (8AM-5PM, M-F). The number for live phone support is: (406) 243- HELP. You can also reach them by email, [ithelpdesk@umontana.edu](mailto:ithelpdesk@umontana.edu), or by visiting UM Solutions Center (<https://umt.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/2032/Portal/Home/filling>).

## II. OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK

The following textbook is recommended, but not required, for this course:

*Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 12th Edition. Edited by Hope C. Dawson and Michael Phelan. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press (2016). ISBN-9780814252703. (LF)

Additional readings may be made available through the Moodle course site.

## III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to the study of language and linguistics. In the first part of the course we will analyze language in terms of different levels of structure: the sounds of language (phonetics & phonology), words and word parts (morphology), and phrases and sentences (syntax). Central questions to be addressed include: How are the sounds of speech produced? How are complex words built up from simple words and word-parts? How are new words created? How are words grouped into grammatical categories? How does a sentence differ from a mere string of words? How can the structure of a sentence help explain its meaning? The second part of the course investigates a variety of topics including: how the meaning of an utterance changes depending on the speech situation (pragmatics); how the variety of a language spoken is influenced by geographical & social factors (language variation); how languages change over time (historical linguistics); how an infant acquires language (language acquisition); how language and culture interact; and factors leading to language endangerment.

#### IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students should have an understanding of the basic units and principles involved in analyzing the sound, word, and sentence structure of language. More specific learning outcomes include:

- an understanding of how speech sounds are produced in the vocal tract
- the ability to transcribe basic English words and phrases phonetically
- an understanding of the difference between the phonemes and allophones of a language
- the ability to analyze complex words in terms of free and bound morphemes
- the ability to distinguish inflectional morphemes from derivational morphemes
- knowledge of how to diagram a variety of sentences
- an understanding of how the context of utterance affects meaning
- knowledge of how language varies depending on geographical and social factors
- an understanding of how languages change over time
- knowledge of the relative stages of language acquisition in the infant.

#### V. COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is offered fully on-line. It is organized by week, Monday-Friday. Each week will typically contain: **PDF Lectures** for you to read, **Quizzes** for you to take, and either a **Discussion Prompt** to reply to, or an **Assignment** to be uploaded. Additionally, there will be **three Tests** during the course of the semester. Each week also contains an **OPTIONAL Textbook Reading Assignment** associated with each lecture. You are encouraged, but not required to do the reading. The quizzes and tests will be based exclusively on material in the lectures, but the readings may provide additional explanation. Each week's material will be made available no later than Saturday at noon prior to the beginning of the week. You may work at your own pace during the week so long as you complete the week's requirements on time. (See below for details.) The length of the lectures and quizzes vary considerably, so it is a good idea to begin each week it by taking a look at the lectures and quizzes to judge how best to pace yourself for the week.

#### VI. ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Your work in this course will be assessed as follows:

**QUIZZES:** There will typically be **two quizzes each week**. (For weeks in which a test is given, there will only be one quiz and it will be due on Thursday.) Each quiz is worth 1.5% of your final grade. You may take each quiz **twice**; only your higher grade will be counted.

**TESTS:** There will be **three tests** during the semester. The tests dates are: **Fri Feb 4, Fri Feb 25, and Fri Mar 18**. Tests will be available from **6 AM to midnight (Mtn Time)**. The tests will have the same format as the quizzes, but you will have 40 minutes to complete the exam and you will only be allowed one attempt. If you anticipate being unable to take a test on the assigned day, you must inform the instructor as soon as possible. More information about the structure and content of tests will be posted during the semester. A student who fails to take a test at the scheduled time and who does not have a written excuse from a medical doctor or other **excused** absence in accord with University Policy, will receive a zero for the test.

**DISCUSSION:** Beginning with the second week of the semester and continuing through the week of March 7, there will be **2 Discussion Prompts per week** (except on weeks where you have a Test; see Course Outline below). **You are required to respond to only one of the two prompts each week.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Beginning the week of Mar 28, there will be weekly written **Assignments**. The Assignments will consist of one or more open-ended questions based on the topic for that week. The length of each assignment will vary from 1/2 - 1 page. Assignments are to be downloaded from Moodle, completed and uploaded. The acceptable file formats are Word, PDF, or ODT.

**FINAL EXAM:** The Final Exam will be **cumulative**. It will be available on **Tues, May 10 from 6 AM to midnight**. **You will have 60 minutes to complete the test and you will be allowed one attempt.** If you are unable to take the Final Exam on the assigned day, you must inform the instructor by as soon as possible. The specific topics to be covered and the format of the final exam will be posted later in the semester. A student who fails to take the final exam and who does not have a written excuse from a medical doctor or other **excused** absence in accord with University Policy, will receive a zero for the final exam.

From the University Catalog: Students may seek relief from writing more than two examinations during the same day. Students who are scheduled for more than two examinations may contact the appropriate faculty to arrange an alternate testing time during the scheduled final examination period.

Grades: Your course grade will be based on the following calculation:

- Quizzes (24 x 1.5% each): 36%
- Tests (3 x 6 % each): 18%
- Assignments (6 x 4% each): 24%
- Discussion Posts (5 x 2% each): 10%
- Final Exam: 12%

The grading scale used for final course grades will be the following:

93.00-100.00 %	A	80.00-82.99 %	B-	67.00-69.99 %	D+
90.00-92.99 %	A -	77.00-79.99 %	C+	63.00-66.99 %	D
87.00-89.99 %	B+	73.00-76.99 %	C	60.00-62.99 %	D-
83.00-86.99 %	B	70.00-72.99 %	C-	0.00-59.99 %	F

## VII. COURSE POLICIES

**Student Conduct Code:** You are expected to adhere to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/default.php>).

**Academic Honesty:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

**Course Accommodations:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equity, please contact the Office for Disability Equity in Lommasson Center 154 (406-243-2243). I will work with you and the Office for Disability Equity to provide an appropriate modification. For more information, visit the Office for Disability Equity (<https://www.umt.edu/disability/>).

**Withdrawing from the Course:** From the Registrar (<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/default.php>): Through the 15<sup>th</sup> instructional day, all classes are dropped in CyberBear. From the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 45<sup>th</sup> instructional day, all classes must be dropped using Drop forms (instructor signature required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **\$10 fee applies.** From the 46<sup>th</sup> to the last instructional day prior to finals week, classes must be dropped using the Drop form (instructor and Dean signatures required, advisor signature required for undergraduates). **\$10 fee applies.**

**Email:** In accordance with University policy: I will use only the email address provided for you on the Moodle website for class emails; I will only respond to emails sent to me from your University email address; and I will not communicate grade information via email. **It is your responsibility to keep informed about information contained in email sent to your University email account.**

**COVID-19:** All students are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. UM recommends students get the COVID vaccine and booster. COVID-19 vaccines are available on a walk-in basis at the Health Service Pharmacy in Curry Health Center (<https://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/pharmacy/default.php>). If you feel sick, are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or if you become ill, please contact Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330. **Please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements to keep up, or catch up, with assignments.** Additional information about COVID-19 may be found on the University Coronavirus website (<https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus/>).

## VIII. ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Academic Support

- **Strategies for Online Students** (<https://moodle.umt.edu/enrol/index.php?id=31356>): A self-enrollable, self-paced tutorial for students to help them identify their preferred learning styles and learn strategies for being a successful online student.
- **Writing and Public Speaking Center** (<https://www.umt.edu/writing-center/default.php>): Provides help at any point with writing, presentation, and research projects. Online and in-person appointments available.

### Personal Wellness Support

- **University of Montana Emergency Student Support Fund** (<https://supportum.org/givingopportunities/campusinitiatives/emergency-student-support-fund.php>): Established to help enrolled students with unexpected crisis or hardship created by COVID-19.
- **UM Food Pantry** (<https://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/food-pantry/default.php>): Currently providing free meal kits and hygiene products for students, staff, faculty, and community members.

## IX. COURSE OUTLINE

Week of	Topic	Due Dates	Optional Reading
T 1/18	Introduction: What is Linguistics?	--- ----	---
<b>Morphology: The Structure of Words</b>			
T 1/18	Introduction to Morphemes	F 1/21: Quiz 1	LF** 4.1.4, 4.1.5
M 1/24	Inflection & Derivation Forming New Words	R 1/27 : Quiz 2 F 1/28: Quiz 3; Discussion 1	LF 4.1.2, 4.1.3 (See Moodle)
M 1/31	Hierarchical Structure of Words <b>TEST 1</b>	R 2/03: Quiz 4 <b>F 2/04: TEST 1</b>	LF 4.4
<b>Phonetics &amp; Phonology: The Structure of Speech Sounds</b>			
M 2/07	Speech Production Consonants	R 2/10: Quiz 5 F 2/11: Quiz 6; Discussion 2	LF 2.1.2,1.4; 2.2.1, 2.2 LF 2.2.3 - 2.2.5, 2.2.7
M 2/14	Vowels Phonemes & Allophones	R 2/17: Quiz 7 F 2/18: Quiz 8; Discussion 3	LF 2.3.1-2.3.6 LF 3.2.1-3.2.4
T 2/22	Syllable Structure <b>TEST 2</b>	R 2/24: Quiz 9 <b>F 2/25: Test 2</b>	LF 2.1.3 ---
<b>Syntax: The Structure of Phrases &amp; Sentences</b>			
M 2/28	Syntactic Properties Syntactic Categories	R 3/03: Quiz 10 F 3/04: Quiz 11; Discussion 4	LF 5.2 LF 5.4
M 3/07	Syntactic Constituency Structurally Ambiguous Sentences	R 3/10: Quiz 12 F 3/11: Quiz 13; Discussion 5	LF 5.3, 5.5.1, 5.5.2 LF 5.5.3
M 3/14	<b>TEST 3</b>	<b>F 3/18: Test 3</b>	---
<b>Spring Break</b>			
<b>Language Context, Variation, &amp; Change</b>			
M 3/28	Semantics & Pragmatics Language Variation (PT 1)	R 3/31: Quiz 14 F 4/01: Quiz 15; Assignment 1	LF 6.3; Ch. 7 LF 10.1,10.2
M 4/04	Language Variation (PT2) Language Contact and Endangerment	R 4/07: Quiz 16 F 4/08: Quiz 17; Assignment 2	LF 10.4-10.5 LF Ch.12
M 4/11	Language & Culture (PT 1) Language & Culture (PT 2)	R 4/14: Quiz 18 F 4/15: Quiz 19; Assignment 3	LF 11.1.3, 11.4 LF 11.1.4-11.2
M 4/18	Language Change (PT 1) Language Change (PT 2)	R 4/21: Quiz 20 F 4/22: Quiz 21; Assignment 4	LF 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.3 LF 13.5, 13.6
<b>Language Acquisition, the Brain, &amp; Psycholinguistics</b>			
M 4/25	Language Acquisition Neurolinguistics and Psycholinguistics	R 4/28 Quiz 22 F 4/29: Quiz 23; Assignment 5	LF Ch. 8 LF Ch. 9.1, 9.2, 9.3.4
M 5/02	Conclusion: What is Language?	F 5/06: Quiz 24; Assignment 6	LF 1.4
<b>T 5/10</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>T 5/10: FINAL EXAM</b>	---

\* Subject to change. See the Moodle course website for the most up-to-date information.

\*\* LF = Language Files, 12th Edition (See II., above).