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### LING 270S.01: Introduction to Linguistics

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# LINGUISTICS 270S: Introduction to Linguistics

Spring Semester 2016, The University of Montana

## Syllabus

MWF 10:10 – 11:00 pm (ED214)

Instructor: Dr. Mizuki Miyashita  
Office: Social Science 212  
Office hours: M 1:30-2:30 or by appointment  
Email: [mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu](mailto:mizuki.miyashita@umontana.edu)  
Phone: 243-5164 (office)

Preceptor: Caroline Allen  
Office: Linguistics Lab (SS234)  
Office Hours: T&R 2:10-3:00  
Email: [caroline.allen@umontana.edu](mailto:caroline.allen@umontana.edu)

### Objectives

This course introduces the basic knowledge in the field of linguistics. You will obtain the general understanding of theoretical issues by considering how speech sounds are formed and organized, how words and sentences are formed and arranged, how language is used in society and what happens when there is more than one language used in the same country, etc. Linguistics requires logical thinking skills. Throughout the semester, we will look at different languages as well as English in order not only to be introduced to the linguistic diversity, but also to learn about human linguistic capacity. Materials provided in the first half of the semester are somewhat mathematical. Studying linguistics gives you not only the current linguistics contents but also critical thinking skills that are fundamental and highly respected in the academic and professional environments.

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand the basic terminology in linguistics, how sounds, words, phrases and sentences are formed and organized, and analyze linguistic data using standard methodologies
- Discuss the complexity and systematicity of human language in terms of a descriptive rather than prescriptive perspective
- Understand and discuss development in language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language in society and language diversity, language relatedness
- Understand the different major types of writing systems and their developments
- Understand the importance of *intergenerational connection* as well as *indigenous knowledge* from a perspective of sustainability

### Prerequisites (None)

### General University Requirements

This course satisfies the Social Science designation of the General Education University Requirement.

### Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

7 Homework 35% (5 x 7 Assignments)  
Exam 1 20%  
Exam 2 20%  
Exam 3 20%  
Participation 5%

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	F	0-59%

- **Final exam** (cumulative) is optional. It replaces your lowest scored exam.
- No Pass/Fail option is available if you are taking this course to satisfy a requirement. You must be passing in order to be considered for an incomplete.
- There is **no extra credit opportunity** other than extra questions provided during the exams.

### Policies and Agreements

#### Attendance/Absence Policy

- Attendance is part of your participation points. Attending every class meeting is very important. The information given in class is not always the same as what is in the textbook/readings.
- An attendance sheet is passed around. When you are late, contact me after class and let me know that you are here (make sure to sign-in). A phrase such as “I was there” later in the semester is not accepted.
- You are encouraged to turn in a document for your absence (e.g. a doctor’s note, a letter from your instructor re: training/fieldtrip, etc.). Verbal communication is not guaranteed.

Moodle Use and Participation

- This course uses *moodle* the online supplement (<http://umonline.umd.edu>). **Lecture slides, homework assignments and exam study guides** are posted here. These materials are not distributed in class.

Class Preparation

- Lectures will be based on the readings, slides (on moodle) and other materials given in class.
- You are recommended to go through the slides, readings *before* and *after* lectures. Lecture contents do not reflect order of contents in the reading materials.

Homework

- Homework assignments are collected in the beginning of the class. Download and print out homework sheets. Work on them manually and submit them by their due dates. **Do not** submit them by email.
- Every homework assignment is graded for its quality. Most of them require you to “think.” Be ready to dedicate your few hours for them. **Take it seriously** as if these assignments were take-home exams.

Assignment and Late Assignment Policy

- If you are arriving after the assignment collection, make sure that you turn in your work first.
- A late assignment may be considered for full points only under the condition when you contact me before the due date with a “considerable” reason (see general catalogue). In this case, you must contact me and individually set a new assignment due. A “considerable reason” follows the university policy described in the course catalogue including participating in university related events, academic conferences, injury, etc. You must tell me how your reason follows the policy.
- A late assignment without contacting me prior to the deadline is penalized. Any late assignment handed in is not guaranteed for being graded or even returned.

Makeup Exam Policy

- Makeup tests are given only when your reasons for missing the test meet the University’s policy. For example, you may arrange a makeup exam when you miss a test for medical reason and submit a doctor’s note. You will not be considered for a makeup exam for your family reunion, vacation, etc.
- Also, your individual necessity for studying is not considered a good reason. Please plan ahead of time.

Academic Misconduct ([http://www.umd.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umd.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php))

- 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.
- Academic misconduct is defined as all forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to:
 

1) Plagiarism	6) Submitting work previously presented in another course
2) Misconduct during an examination or academic exercise	7) Improperly influencing conduct
3) Unauthorized possession of examination or other course materials	8) Substituting, or arranging substitution, for another student during an examination or other academic exercise
4) Tampering with course materials	9) Facilitating academic dishonesty, and
5) Submitting false information	10) Altering transcripts, grades, examinations, or other academically related documents

DSS Service (<http://www.umd.edu/disability>)

- The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Textbook/readingsElectronically available on moodle

- *Linguistics Modules* by Amy Fountain and Shannon Bischoff
- *Language Files 11, Ohio State University*

You are highly recommended to do the reading before class at least once, and revisit the assigned chapter during the topic discussed. Read all pages, and read carefully the pages given in the schedule.

Recommended Readings

- O’Grady, Dobrovolsky and Aronoff. (2010) Contemporary Linguistics. Sixth Edition.: St. Martin’s.  
 Pinker, Steven. (1995) *The Language Instinct*. NY: HarperPerennial.  
 Fromkin V., R. Rodman, and N. Hyams. (2007) An Introduction to Language, 8th Ed.: Heinle, Thomson.

## Schedule of the semester (Tentative)

The content on this syllabus may be modified.

Wk		Topic	Reading	Due	Notes
1	M Jan. 25 W Jan. 27 F Jan. 29	Introduction Introduction Phonetics	F&B Intro F&B Phonetics		
2	M Feb. 1 W Feb. 3 F Feb. 5	Phonetics Phonetics Phonetics/phonology	F&B Phonology	HW 1 Phonetics (F)	
3	M Feb. 8 W Feb. 10 F Feb. 12	Phonology Phonology Phonology		HW 2 Phonology (F)	
4	M Feb. 15 W Feb. 17 F Feb. 19	<b>No Class</b> (Pres. Day) Phonology/Review <b>Exam 1</b>			
5	M Feb. 22 W Feb. 24 F Feb. 26	Morphology Morphology Morphology	F&B Morphology		
6	M Feb. 29 W Mar. 2 F Mar. 4	Morphology Morphology/Syntax Syntax	F&B Syntax	HW 3 Morphology (W)	
7	M Mar. 7 W Mar. 9 F Mar. 11	Syntax Syntax Syntax			
8	M Mar. 14 W Mar. 16 F Mar. 18	Semantics Semantics/Review <b>Exam 2</b>	F&B Pragmatics	HW 4 Syntax (M)	
9	M Mar. 21 W Mar. 23 F Mar. 25	Language Change Language Change Language Change	Files 13.1-13.7	NW 5 Change (F)	
10	M Mar. 28 W Mar. 30 F Apr. 1	<b>Spring Break</b> <b>Spring Break</b> <b>Spring Break</b>			
11	M Apr. 4 W Apr. 6 F Apr. 8	Language Acquisition Language Acquisition Acquisition/Brain	Files 8.1-8.5 ↓ Files 9.1-9.7		
12	M Apr. 11 W Apr. 13 F Apr. 15	Brain and Language Language in Society Language in Society	↓ Files 10.1-10.5 ↓		
13	M Apr. 18 W Apr. 20 F Apr. 22	Language in Society Language in Society Language in Society	Files 12.1-12.6 ↓	HW 6 Ethnologue (F)	
14	M Apr. 25 W Apr. 27 F Apr. 29	Writing and Language Review <b>Exam 3</b>	Files 15.1-15.3		
15	M May 2 W May 4 F May 6	The Linguist Language Ecology Summary	Movie	HW 7 Sustainability (F)	
	R May 12	<b>10AM-12PM (R)</b>			