

LING 1200 A01 Introduction to Linguistics (6)
 Fall 2006/Winter 2007, Slot 3 (MWF 10:30-11:20), 306 Tier

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Office hours: Mondays 4-5 pm, Tuesdays 2-3 pm, and by appointment

Required text

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, Nina Hyams & Kirsten M. Hummel (2006). *An Introduction to Language* (3rd Canadian Edition). Scarborough: Nelson.

Course overview

Language is more than just words and sentences. Language is something that each of us carries around in our heads, as well as something we share with others. All languages share certain properties, even though all languages are different. Linguists don't just study languages, they study Language—as a faculty of mind, as a social institution; its parts and its structure; its relationships and how it changes. This survey will explore the richness and complexity of Language. What does it mean to know a language? If you know a language, what is it you know? How do small children learn whole languages from scratch so quickly, when most of us have so much trouble learning a second language? Are some languages more complex than others? How do linguists study language, and what kinds of questions do they ask? And how do they find the answers?

Exam schedule and other important dates

Exam 1	Friday, 6 October 2006
Holiday	Monday, 9 October (Thanksgiving)
Exam 2	Monday, 6 November 2006
Holiday	Friday, 10 November 2006 (Remembrance Day observed)
Exam 3	Wednesday, 6 December 2006
Exam 4	Friday, 2 February 2007
Holiday	Monday, 12 February 2007 – Friday, 23 February 2007
Exam 5	Friday, 9 March 2007
Deadline	Monday, 19 March 2007 (Voluntary Withdrawal)
Holiday	Friday, 6 April 2007 (Good Friday)
Exam 6	Monday, 9 April 2007

Evaluation

Grades are determined by your performance on:

Exercises (homework and in-class exercises)		20% total
Exams (3 per term, 6 total, drop the lowest)	16% each (x5)	80% total

Grades will be determined using the scale at right (descriptors are from the Undergraduate Calendar). Final grades are subject to departmental approval and are not official until assigned by the Student Records Office. No marks or grades will be posted.

<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
A+	95-100	Exceptional
A	89-94.9	Excellent
B+	83-88.9	Very Good
B	77-82.9	Good
C+	71-76.9	Satisfactory
C	65-70.9	Adequate
D	55-64.9	Marginal
F	<55	Failure

Rules, regulations, policies and assorted fine print

Late homework assignments cannot be accepted. No early or make-up exams will be given. In extreme cases (e.g. valid medical emergency or other unavoidable circumstances) a make up exam or other remedy may be offered *at the discretion of the instructor*. In the case of a general emergency affecting the entire class or other circumstance that makes it impossible to give or grade an exam, the instructor reserves the right to reschedule an exam of equal value.

Great value is placed on academic integrity. Students should be acquainted with University policies and procedures regarding cheating, plagiarism and impersonation at exams, as set out in the Undergraduate Calendar. By Faculty of Arts policy, the penalty for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination may be a failing grade on the work in question and in the course. For very serious acts of plagiarism, the penalty may include suspension from registration in department or all Faculty of Arts courses for a period of up to five years.

Please be respectful of others at all times. Late arrivals, early departures, personal conversations, disruptions by phone, beeper, or similar devices, or any other disruptive or disturbing activities are not acceptable.

Regarding collaboration

This class will challenge you to assimilate a great deal of material in a very short period of time. While cheating in all forms is prohibited, I encourage you to form small study groups if that will assist you. If you choose to work in groups, you must indicate the names of your study partner(s) on work you turn in to me. Your essays and other turned-in work must be written independently, in your own words. Specific ideas that you get from others (e.g. study-partner(s), the web, published sources, etc.) must be attributed appropriately.

Please ask if you have any questions regarding these policies.

Schedule (tentative)

Unit	Partial list of topics*	Readings**
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of linguistic inquiry • Morphology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ words and word structure ◦ morphological analysis • The lexicon 	Ch 1 Ch 2
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ speech sounds and features ◦ phonetic transcription • Phonology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ phonemes and allophones ◦ phonological alternations and analysis ◦ morphophonemics 	Ch 5 Ch 6
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syntax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ sentence and phrase structures ◦ trees and transformations • Semantics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ meaning and structure ◦ ambiguity 	Ch 3 Ch 4
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ language classification ◦ language change ◦ historical reconstruction • Sociolinguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ regional and social dialects ◦ register 	Ch 12 Ch 11
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psycholinguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ language acquisition ◦ language processing • Neurolinguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ language and the brain ◦ language breakdown 	Ch 7 Ch 10
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible topics (to be announced) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ grammar and signed languages ◦ writing systems ◦ Pidgin/Creole formation and linguistic evidence ◦ computational processing 	TBA

* Subject areas and specific topics listed are tentative and subject to change at any time

** Readings relate *generally* to the topics in each unit