

Linguistics 101: Introduction to the Study of Language (Fall 2009)

Course information

Lecture Times	MWF 10am-10:50am
Lecture Location	CENTR 113
Section Time	Fridays 12:30pm-1:30pm
Section Location	AP&M 4301
Class webpage	http://grammar.ucsd.edu/courses/lign101/

Instructor information

Instructor	Roger Levy (rlevy@ling.ucsd.edu)
Instructor's office	AP&M 4220
Instructor's office hours	Mondays and Wednesdays 11am-12pm
Teaching Assistants (TAs)	Henry Beecher (hbeecher@ling.ucsd.edu) and Tara Boswell (tara@ling.ucsd.edu)
TA's office	Henry Beecher: AP&M 2442 ; Tara Boswell: AP&M 3351D
TA's office hours	Henry Beecher: Mondays 9am-9:50am; Tara Boswell: Wednesdays 2:30pm-3:30pm

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of language. The bulk of this course will involve covering the core areas of linguistic theory—phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The rest of the course will cover cross-cutting ways to study phenomena in these core areas, including the study of language in society (sociolinguistics), language change (historical linguistics), language and the mind & brain (psycholinguistics & neurolinguistics), language acquisition, computational linguistics, and practical applications of linguistics.

Intended Audience

Upper-division students and highly-motivated lower-division students interested in language. No previous exposure to linguistics is required.

Reading material

The textbook we're using is the [Language Files](#), tenth edition. *It is required that you purchase this textbook* — it is available at the bookstore. In addition, there is one copy on reserve at Geisel and one copy on reserve at the Linguistics Department Language Lab & Library ([AP&M 3432](#)), but don't rely solely on these — buy your own. There may occasionally be other readings assigned, as well. Please do the reading for each day before the lecture! You will not understand the material covered in lecture as well otherwise.

Clickers

You are required to have an Interwrite [PRS RF clicker](#) and bring it to class regularly. We will have brief pop quizzes on the course material at various points during lectures, and a small percent of your grade will be based on your participation in these quizzes. (You won't be graded based on your performance on the quizzes; you get full credit so long as you participate.) There are plenty of these clickers available for purchase at the bookstore. Please be sure that you have one by the start of the second week of class.

WebCT

We will be using WebCT for administering homework assignments and various surveys, and as a discussion forum for all participants in the class. Most of you should be familiar with WebCT from another class; if you aren't, take a look at http://iwdc.ucsd.edu/docs/step1_webct_fa07.pdf.

Discussion boards

There will be discussion boards on the course WebCT site for the major topics covered in this class. If you have a question about course content that may be relevant to other students in the course, we strongly encourage you to post it to the WebCT discussion board for this class. We encourage you to read the discussion boards regularly, and if you know the answer to a question, to post the answer! *Active, positive contributions to the discussion boards will be given favorable consideration in determining final grades.*

Syllabus (subject to modification)

Week	Day	Topic & Reading	Materials	Homework Assignments
Week 0	25 Sep	<i>Class Introduction</i>	Files 1.0-1.6	Beginning of Class Survey (WebCT)
Week 1	28 Sep	<i>Phonetics 1</i> : introduction & articulatory phonetics; English consonants	Files 2.0-2.2	Homework 1 goes out
	30 Sep	<i>Phonetics 2</i> : English consonants continued; English vowels	File 2.3	
	2 Oct	<i>Phonetics 3</i> : English vowels continued; IPA exercises		
Week 2	5 Oct	<i>Phonetics 4</i> : sounds of the world's languages	File 2.4, Powerpoint Slides	

Week	Day	Topic & Reading	Materials	Homework Assignments
	7 Oct	<i>Phonetics 5</i> : suprasegmentals; acoustic phonetics	Files 2.5-2.6	
	9 Oct	<i>Phonology 1</i> : phonemes and allophones	Files 3.0-3.1	Homework 1 due, Homework 2 goes out
Week 3	12 Oct	<i>Phonology 2</i> : phonological rules	File 3.2	
	14 Oct	<i>Phonology 3</i> : phonotactic constraints; syllables; foreign accents; phonology problems	Files 3.3 & 3.5	
	16 Oct	<i>Morphology 1</i> : derivation vs. inflection; free vs. bound	Files 4.0-4.1	Homework 2 due, Homework 3 goes out
Week 4	19 Oct	<i>Morphology 2</i> : morphological processes & hierarchical structure	Files 4.2 & 4.4	
	21 Oct	<i>Morphology 3</i> : morphological types of languages; morphology problems	Files 4.3 & 4.5	
	23 Oct	Midterm Exam I (covers phonetics through morphology)		
Week 5	26 Oct	<i>Syntax 1</i> : word order, lexical categories, agreement, constituency, grammatical roles	Files 5.0-5.2	Homework 3 due, Homework 4 goes out
	28 Oct	<i>Syntax 2</i> : identifying lexical categories; start phrase structure	Files 5.3 & 5.4	
	30 Oct	<i>Syntax 3</i> : more phrase structure; word order typology	Files 5.4 & 5.6	
Week 6	2 Nov	<i>Syntax 4</i> : tests for constituency; syntax problems	File 5.5	
	4 Nov	<i>Semantics 1</i> : reference versus sense	Files 6.0-6.2	Homework 4 due, Homework 5 goes out
	6 Nov	<i>Semantics 2</i> : lexical semantics	Files 6.3-6.4	
Week 7	9 Nov	<i>Semantics 3</i> : compositional semantics	File 6.5	
	11 Nov	Veterans Day, no class		

Week	Day	Topic & Reading	Materials	Homework Assignments
	13 Nov	<i>Pragmatics 1</i> : rules of conversation (Grice's maxims)	Files 7.0-7.2	Homework 5 due, Homework 6 goes out
Week 8	16 Nov	<i>Pragmatics 2</i> : drawing conclusions; presupposition	Files 7.3-7.4	
	18 Nov	<i>Pragmatics 3</i> : speech acts	File 7.5	
	20 Nov	<i>Language in Society</i>	Chapter 10	Homework 6 due, Homework 7 goes out
Week 9	23 Nov	Midterm Exam II (covers syntax through pragmatics)		
	25 Nov	<i>Language Change I</i>	Chapter 12	Homework 8 goes out
	27 Nov	Thanksgiving vacation, no class		
Week 10	30 Nov	<i>Language Change II</i>	Language Reconstruction Handout	Homework 7 due
	2 Dec	<i>Psycholinguistics (language and the mind)</i>		
	4 Dec	<i>Practical Applications of Linguistics</i> (why this is a great field!) & Review	Chapter 16	Homework 8 due

Instructor contact policy

Coming to talk to the instructor or TA during their office hours is highly encouraged. Electronic communications about course content should be made through the WebCT discussion board (see above). We ask that you use email contact only for communications that are not relevant to other students (e.g., specific learning circumstances or medical/personal emergency). Also, if you email the instructor or TA, please **do not** use WebCT to do so! WebCT mail is a terrible interface and very inconvenient for us.

Academic Integrity

Please take some time to read the [UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship](#). We will be conducting this course in full accordance with this policy. In particular, any suspected cheating or plagiarism in the course will be taken very seriously and investigated. If we determine that cheating or plagiarism has taken place, it will be reported to UCSD's Office of the Academic Integrity Coordinator, in accordance with UCSD policy. Please note that *it is not at our discretion* whether or not to report

instances of academic dishonesty: *we are obligated by UCSD policy* to report such instances.

Examples of academic integrity violations

Here are some examples of academic integrity violations. **DO NOT DO THESE!!!**

- Copying from or looking on to a neighbor's exam during a midterm.
- Copying a friend or roommate's homework assignment.
- Changing a graded homework assignment or exam and returning it for a regrade.
- Smuggling notes into a closed-book exam.
- Finding the answer key to a homework assignment (e.g., on the Web) and copying it.
- Giving a false reason (e.g., death of a relative) for missing an exam or turning in an assignment late.

This is not an exhaustive list — please read the [UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship](#) and use your common sense!

Requirements & grading

Your grade will be based on six criteria:

1. Participation in clicker-based pop quizzes during lectures will be worth 3% of your grade. As long as you participate in 80% of these quizzes, you will earn full credit for this 3%.
2. Eight homework assignments to be assigned throughout the quarter. We will drop your lowest score and keep the remaining seven. These seven assignments will be worth 49% of your grade (i.e., 7% for each assignment).
3. A midterm covering phonetics, phonology, and morphology on **Wednesday 23 October** (22% of your grade).
4. Another midterm covering syntax, semantics, and pragmatics on **Monday 23 November** (22% of your grade).
5. One of the two following options (4% of your grade; no extra credit for doing both!):
 - a. Participation in three hours of the Human Subject Pool (<http://experimatrix2.com/ucsd/>): each hour of participation counts as 1% of your grade, *plus a 1% bonus for participation in all three hours*. You are encouraged to participate in language-related experiments, and to participate in these experiments early—the last day for participation is **2 December**, and there is no guarantee that there will be experiment slots open for participation in the latest part of the quarter.
 - b. Writing a research paper (1000-1500 words) on some topic covered in the class. The due date for such a paper is December 2, and *no late papers will be accepted*. If you choose this option, you **must** discuss it with Professor Levy or one of the teaching assistants *before* writing the paper and turning it in.
6. The following will be taken into consideration favorably when assessing borderline grade cases:
 - a. Regular attendance in class, having done the assigned readings beforehand, and active participation in class discussions;

- b. Active participation in the optional section meetings;
- c. Active participation in WebCT discussion lists, including (thoughtfully!) answering questions posed by other students.

Homework grading policy

Homework assignments may be turned in up to six days late, but they will be downgraded *10% per day*. We will be posting homework solutions one week from the due date of each assignment.

Exceptions to the late-homework policy will only be granted for medical or personal emergencies, and the instructor or his TA must be notified as soon as possible (not several days after the emergency is over).

At the end of the quarter, we will drop your lowest-scoring homework assignment; the 49% of your grade from homework will be derived from the rest of your homeworks.

Regrading/correction policy

We all make mistakes—TAs and professors as well as students—so please do look over your returned homeworks and tests, and compare them to the answer keys that are distributed. In addition to helping ensure that you get the credit you deserve, this checking will improve your retention of the material. However, there is a statute of limitations: ***all grading mistakes must be brought to our attention within one week of the distribution of the answer key to the homework or test.*** This prevents us from getting a backlog of corrections at the end of the quarter, which would interfere with the time-consuming activities of grading your work and assigning you grades as quickly and accurately as possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Other

There is a [FAQ](#) (list of frequently asked questions & their answers) for the course.