RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201, Section C1)
Spring 2019

Lecture	Mon-Thurs 10:00-11:25
Lecture Location	Virtual (links on Canvas site)
Course Website	On Canvas (notifications will be sent to your Rutgers Email)

Instructors	Ang Li and Nate Koser
Email	al937@scarletmail.rutgers.edu and nate.koser@rutgers.edu
Office hours	Ang Li: Fri 2-3 Nate Koser: Fri 2-3pm
Office hours location	Zoom lecture room

About this course

This course is an introduction to the study of linguistics and contemporary linguistic theory. *Linguistics* is a broad term that encompasses basically anything having to do with the scientific study of human language. Linguists use mathematical systems (often called 'formal systems') to develop precise theories that help us understand the incredibly rich cognitive processes that allow us to use language to communicate with each other, conduct an internal monologue, and so much more.

In this course, we'll focus on several key areas of modern linguistic theory: morphology (the study of words and word formation), syntax (the study of how sentences and phrases are built and structured), semantics (the study of how words and phrases are associated with meaning), and phonetics and phonology (the study of "speech sounds", broadly — scare quotes because we can also study the phonetics and phonology of signed languages!).

Course learning goals

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Understand significant subfields within linguistics.

• Understand, create, and manipulate representations and analyses in phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology.

Department learning goals met by this course:

• Students will reason about language; identify how incorrect or irrational assumptions and prejudices distort understanding of language; demonstrate knowledge about language in the world including a sophisticated understanding of linguistic and cultural variation, and evaluate popular views on the nature of human languages and their speakers.

• Majors and Minors will also demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology and semantics and apply linguistic theory in these areas.

They will investigate linguistic data and analyze it; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains of linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics that they have learned in the core courses to new topics; and access current research in the field. Some students will investigate language in a broader context, where it can be systematically and rationally explored using their sophisticated understanding how language works.

This course has been approved as a Core Curriculum Course and satisfies the following Core Curriculum learning goals:

• Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers. [AHq]

• Apply effective and efficient mathematical or other formal processes to reason and to solve problems. [QR]

Readings

Required readings are posted as pdf files on Canvas, under the **Reading** heading, in the **Course Resources** module. You do not need to buy a textbook for this course.

Evaluation and required work

I'm committed to helping you succeed in this course. You'll find this material new and probably, at times, challenging. If you do the reading, come to class and participate, and devote time to the homework (availing yourselves of my office hours, as needed), you'll be in great shape.

Your final grade for this course is based on a mix of homework assignments, midterm and final exams, and attendance/participation (both in lecture and recitation). The percentage-wise breakdown is on the left, and the corresponding letter grades are on the right:

		A	$\geq 90\%$
6 out of 8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	50%	B+	85-89.9%
Midterm Exam	20%	B	80-84.9%
Final Exam	20%	C+	75-79.9%
Attendance & participation	10%	C	70-74.9%
		D	60-69.9%
		F	$\leq 59.9\%$

Week	Dates	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.
1	6/1-6/3		Introduction	Fundamentals 1	Fundamentals 2
2	6/7-6/10	Morphology 1	Morphology 2	Morphology 3	Morphology 4
3	6/14-6/17	**Syntax 1**	Syntax 2	**Syntax 3**	Syntax 4
2	6/21-6/24	Syntax 5	Syntax 6	**Review**	Midterm
3	6/28-7/1	Semantics 1	Semantics 2	**Semantics 3**	Pragmatics 1
3	7/5-7/8	Pragmatics 2	**Pragmatics 3**	Phonetics 1	Phonetics 2
7	7/12-7/15	**Phonology 1**	Phonology 2	Phonology 3	**Phonology 4**
8	7/19-7/22	Phonology 5	Phonology 6	**Review**	Final exam

Table 1: Our tentative schedule

Schedule

A schedule is given in the table above. This schedule is tentative and subject to change, but hopefully it helps you get your bearings. Notice in particular:

• Days highlighted in red are taught by Prof. Koser, and days highlighted in blue are taught by Prof. Li.

• Days in **bold font** indicate that a homework is due that day (the assignment will appear on Canvas)

• Homeworks are due **at 5pm** via Canvas.

• There is an in-class midterm exam on **June 24th**.

General policies

The following policies are provided at ling.rutgers.edu > Undergraduate > Department Learning Goals and Policies.

• Rutgers Code of Student Conduct

• Policy on Religiously Observant Students

• Students with Disabilities

• Attendance Policy

• Academic Integrity

• Complaints

• Canvas Policy

• Email and Contact Information Policy

It is the responsibility of all students to read and abide by the policies above.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Frequent and unexcused absences will substantially lower your Attendance & participation grade, and will likely make it difficult for you to succeed in the course. If you need to miss a class, you must use the University absence reporting website (sims.rutgers.edu/ssra) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Academic integrity

Please review the university's academic integrity policy: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. It's unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own. You must work on your assignments individually, and you may not discuss the assignments with others in class or look at anybody else's written work until after the assignments have been graded and returned.