

Introduction to Linguistics
LING 270
The University of Montana

Time: TR 12:30-1:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Wood

Email: rebecca2.wood@umontana.edu

Place: Chemistry 123

Office: Social Sciences 232

Office Hours: MW 9-10 or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a basic introduction to the study of languages and linguistics. We will begin the course by examining the core areas of linguistics: *phonetics* (sounds of language), *phonology* (sound patterns), *morphology* (word structure), *syntax* (sentence structure), and *semantics* (meaning). The second half of the semester will examine broader topics within the field of linguistics, including how children acquire language, how languages change over time, and how language and culture interact. We will examine languages from around the world, as well as the English language.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- (a) understand basic linguistic terminology and concepts
 - (b) be able to analyze languages based on linguistic frameworks
 - (c) understand the diversity of the world's languages
 - (d) have knowledge of language acquisition, language in society, and language change over time
 - (e) have the foundation needed to take further courses in linguistics.
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Required Readings

There are no required textbooks for this course. Articles will be posted on our course Moodle site. Where relevant I will point you to further readings on the topics we discuss. As well, feel free to ask me about other relevant literature. Please be sure to follow the reading schedule (below).

- Make sure you have read the assigned chapters/articles BEFORE the class they are scheduled to be discussed. Even if you do not understand all the material you read, it is important to be familiar with the topic before we discuss it in class.
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Moodle

This course has an online supplement Moodle site, which can be accessed at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/> (follow the Moodle login links). Slides, handouts, readings, etc. will be posted there for downloading. Links to Student Resources and Tech Support http://umonline.umt.edu/tech_support/ are available at the login page. Please inform me if you have any problems accessing the site.

Course Policies and Procedures:

- Student Conduct Code: You are expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Student Conduct Code, which is downloadable from the [Student Conduct Code webpage](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php): http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. You are also expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Academic Policies and Procedures, which can be found on the [Academic Policies and Procedures webpage](http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php): <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php>.

- E-mail: Course information will be circulated by e-mail to your University of Montana e-mail address. Make sure that you check that e-mail account often. You are responsible for ensuring that you are able to receive any course information circulated by e-mail. If you have any concerns about this, please contact me immediately.
- Course Accommodations Statement (DSS): Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, visit the [Disability Services for Students](http://life.umt.edu/dss) website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

Course Requirements

- Participation includes attendance, assigned readings, practice exercises, answering/asking questions in-class, etc. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, it will be your responsibility to notify me after class.
- Assignments will be posted after class on Tuesdays and will be due at the beginning of the following class, unless otherwise noted (see schedule for specific dates). Please bring keep a copy of your submitted work, as we will go over the answers in class. *No late assignments will be accepted.*
- Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. There will be a total of four exams during the semester. The fourth exam (Final) is cumulative and optional, as it may replace your lowest exam. There will be no make-up exams unless there is an excused absence.
- Plagiarism is an offence and is not tolerated. You are welcome (and encouraged!) to work together with classmates, but you **must** write up your submitted work (i.e., homework and assignments) **on your own.**

Participation	10%
Assignments (6 x 5% each)	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	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 and replaces your lowest exam.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Wk		Topic	Reading	Due	
1	T R	Aug. 30 Sep. 1	Introduction Introduction	O'Grady Ch. 1	
2	T R	Sep. 6 Sep. 8	Phonetics Phonetics	Assignment 1: Phonetics September 8	
3	T R	Sep. 13 Sep. 15	Phonology Phonology/Review	Assignment 2: Phonology September 15	
4	T R	Sep. 20 Sep. 22	Exam 1 Morphology	F&B Morphology	
5	T R	Sep. 27 Sep. 29	Morphology Syntax	Assignment 3: Morphology September 29	
6	T R	Oct. 4 Oct. 6	Syntax Semantics	Assignment 4: Syntax October 6	
7	T R	Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Semantics/Review Exam 2		
8	T R	Oct. 18 Oct. 20	Language Acquisition Language and the Brain	Language Files: Ch. 8 & 9	
9	T R	Oct. 25 Oct. 27	Language Change Language Change	Language Files: Ch. 9	
10	T R	Nov. 1 Nov. 3	Language Variation Language Variation/Writing	Language Files: Ch. 10 & 15	Assignment 5: Variation & Change November 3
11	T R	Nov. 8 Nov. 10	No Class Language and Culture	Language Files: Ch. 11	
12	T R	Nov. 15 Nov. 17	Language and Culture Language and Culture		
13	T R	Nov. 22 Nov. 24	Language Contact No Class	Language Files: Ch. 12	Assignment 6: Language & Culture November 22
14	T R	Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Review Exam 3		
15	T R	Dec. 6 Dec. 8	The Linguist Lg Endangerment/Summary	Movie	
16	F	Dec. 16	3:20PM-5:20PM (F)	Exam 4	