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Linguistic Analysis
LING 470
The University of Montana

Autumn 2016
(Blended Course)

Instructor: Leora Bar-el

SYLLABUS

I've always found the study of language intriguing. I had a linguistics professor who always said, "It's man's ability to use language that makes him the dominant species on the planet." I wouldn't go that far. I think what sets us apart from other animals is that we aren't afraid of vacuum cleaners.

– Jeff Stilson (comedian)

Instructor information
✆ <leora.bar-el@umontana.edu>
✉ Social Science Building, Room 210
☎ To reach me by phone, you can leave a message in the Anthropology main office 406-243-2693
Office hours: Wednesdays 10am-12pm, or by appointment

Course meeting times and venue
This is a blended course (a.k.a. "hybrid" course) which involves both face-to-face and web-based components. We meet as a group on Tuesdays 11:00am-12:20pm in Social Science Room 344. Online course materials are accessible through Moodle http://umonline.umt.edu/ (click on Moodle NetID Login).

Technical Support
UMOnline: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641
UMOnline services and support website: http://umonline.umt.edu/services-and-support
UMOnline technical support e-mail address: umonline-help@umontana.edu
IT Central: 406-243-4357
IT Central support website: http://umt.edu/it/support/
IT Central support e-mail address: italk@umontana.edu

Course description
This course focuses on linguistic analysis. We will look at the formal properties of language and the ways in which these properties are studied by linguists, concentrating on five core components of linguistic analysis: *phonetics* (sounds of language), *phonology* (sound patterns), *morphology* (word structure), *syntax* (sentence structure), and *semantics* (meaning). We will be looking at data from a variety of languages across the world. We will be asking questions such as "What does it mean to know a language?" and "In what ways are languages the same/different?".

Prerequisites
This course has no prerequisites, though an interest in languages is an asset!

Course structure

The content of the course is cumulative so it is important that (a) you work through the material in the order it is presented and (b) you keep up to date with the material (though reading and working ahead is just fine).

   This course is divided into **five modules** the topics of which correspond to Chapters 2-6 of our textbook. A short introduction will be presented in Week 1 – see also Chapter 1 of our textbook. The final week of the course will be devoted to a wrap-up and review of the course material prior to your final exam. For each Module you will be required to read the corresponding chapter in your textbook.

   Tuesday class meetings will include homework review, exercises, data sets, and other activities that put into practice the skills that you will be learning in the units. Slides and other materials presented in class will be available for downloading from Moodle after class.

   For the **online component of the course**, you will be working your way through the units of each module. For each unit there is a downloadable powerpoint show (as well as a printable .pdf file of the slides) that present the central concepts of that unit, as well as practice exercises.

   Throughout the course, you are required to submit **10 homework exercises** spread across all five modules. Completing these exercises is not only a requirement of the course, but will ensure that you are keeping up with and understanding the material. Answers to homework exercises will be reviewed in class, so you must bring a hard copy or electronic copy of your homework to class that you can refer to during the review.

   There are also **four assignments** that you are required to complete and submit during this course. They cover the first four topics of this course (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax). There is no assignment for the semantics module, though the semantics module will be covered on your **final exam**.

Learning outcomes

Each of the assessed components of this course listed below focuses on helping you achieve the learning outcomes of this course. Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

   (a) understand the methods that linguists use to study the formal properties of language,
   (b) be able to make generalizations about data from familiar and unfamiliar languages,
   (c) be able to formulate and test a hypothesis,
   (d) have the foundation needed to take further courses in linguistics.

Learning outcomes by module

MODULE	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT
PHONETICS	• Transcribe English words and phrases using the International Phonetic Alphabet • Provide articulatory descriptions of sounds in all natural languages • Discover natural classes of sounds in all languages and in particular languages • Understand suprasegmental features such as pitch, length and stress	HW 1, 2, 10 ASSIGN 1 Final exam
PHONOLOGY	• Discover phonemes and allophones in familiar and unfamiliar languages • Discover phonological processes observed across languages • Write phonological rules that account for allophonic variation • Understand the hierarchical structure of syllables	HW 3, 4, 10 ASSIGN 2 Final exam
MORPHOLOGY	• Discover morphemes and allomorphs in familiar and unfamiliar languages • Discover morphological processes across languages • Understand the hierarchical structure of morphologically complex words • Identify derivational and inflectional morphemes across languages	HW 5, 6, 10 ASSIGN 3 Final exam
SYNTAX	• Understand and discover syntactic categories in familiar/unfamiliar languages • Understand the hierarchical structure of sentences and the phrase structure rules that regulate them and represent those structures in phrase structure trees • Discover constituents and the parts of the phrase they consist of • Analyze the syntactic structure of familiar and unfamiliar languages	HW 7, 8, 10 ASSIGN 4 Final exam
SEMANTICS	• Understand how meaning of words, phrases and sentences are described. • Analyze how semantic meaning of a unit of language is determined by its parts. • Understand how meaning can be affected by context (pragmatics)	HW 9, 10 Final exam

Assessment (undergraduate)

Participation		10%
Homework	(10 x 2% each)	20%
Assignments	(4 x 10% each)	40%
Final exam		30%

- Participation includes class attendance, contributions to in-class practice exercises, reviews, and other activities, introductory questionnaire, answering/asking questions, etc.

- Homework consists of 10 smaller exercises that you are required to submit over the course of the semester. Your homework is not graded for correct/incorrect answers, but your work will be assessed for completeness and effort. With the exception of Homework #1, or otherwise noted, homework is due by 4pm MST on Mondays specified in the schedule (see schedule below). Each homework is worth 2% of your final grade. Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, homework submitted between Monday's homework deadline and Tuesday's class will receive a maximum of 1% of your final grade. Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, homework submitted after that cannot be accepted. Please note that it is to your advantage to complete the homework exercises as this will help ensure that you understand the material. Homework answers will be reviewed in class the day after they are due. To facilitate this review, bring a copy (hard copy or electronic copy on your own device – whatever works best for you) of your homework that you can refer to. Always keep a copy of your submitted work. See submission and file naming instructions below for further details.

- Assignments will be available for downloading the week before they are due and will cover all the material in the module. Unlike homework, these larger assignments ARE graded for correct/incorrect answers. With the exception of Assignment #4, or otherwise noted, assignments are due by 4pm MST on Thursdays specified in the schedule. Assignments are each worth 10% of your final grade. Always keep a copy of your submitted work. See submission and file naming instructions below for further details.

- The final exam will take place during finals week on **Wednesday December 14, 10:10am-12:10pm**.

- 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**.

Assessment (graduate)

Participation		10%
Homework	(10 x 2% each)	20%
Assignments	(4 x 10% each)	40%
Final exam		25%
Squib		5%

Graduate students are required to write a 5-page squib. Squibs are due by **10:00am Thursday December 15**. Further information will be circulated to graduate students later in the term.

Grading criteria

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	Below 60%
A-	90-92%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%		
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Required text

- O'Grady, William, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, Janie Rees-Miller. 2010. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 6th Edition*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. A companion website is available at: http://www.macmillanlearning.com/Catalog/studentresources/linguistics6e. Note that Bedford/St. Martin's is now part of Macmillan Learning, so you may find the publisher for the book listed under either name. However, to my knowledge, no new edition has been released since the 6th edition.

- New and used copies of the textbook can purchased from the UM Bookstore http://www.montanabookstore.com/site_course_materials.asp. As well, copies are available to check out from the Mansfield library (see Library Reserves below).

- To accommodate any delays in obtaining the textbook, Chapters 1 and 2 of the textbook can be downloaded from our course Moodle site (in the **Textbook** section).

- Read through the relevant chapter before beginning each module. Even if you don't understand everything in the chapter, it is to your advantage to be familiar with the topic before progressing through the units.

Optional texts

The following books are not required, but you may find them useful resources:
- Crystal, David. 2008. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics 6th edition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Bauer, Laurie and Peter Trudgill (eds.). 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin Books.

Library Reserves and Catalog

- This course has a Library Course Reserves webpage On the Mansfield Library Course Reserve Materials page: http://www.lib.umt.edu/research/course-reserve-materials, scroll down to LING 470 and follow the link for the list of books on reserve for this course. Books on reserve are available from the Information Centre on the main floor of the library (Level 3).

- There are three copies of *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 6th Edition* on library reserve (one available on 24 hr checkout and two available on 48 hr checkout). The call number of the book is BA 500.

- The Mansfield library has several copies of *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* available: there are circulating copies of the 6th, 5th, 4th and 3rd editions, as well as electronic versions of the 6th and 5th edition that you can connect to from the library catalogue: www.lib.umt.edu.

Course Policies and Procedures

- Attendance: You are expected to attend every class and be an active participant. If you miss a class, inform me by e-mail as early as possible. I also urge you to contact a classmate to catch up on what you missed. An attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated in each class. It is **your** responsibility to make sure that you sign the sheet so that you are registered as being in class.

- Respect your classmates: Arrive to class on time! You are responsible for all material covered, including announcements, questions/answers, etc., that may occur at the beginning of class. If you are late, please be courteous to your fellow classmates and me – avoid being disruptive. You can catch up on what you may have missed **after class**. If you anticipate being late to class regularly (e.g., due to a work schedule, a class on the other side of campus, etc.), please inform me as soon as possible.

- 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. 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.

- E-mail**:** Course information will be circulated by e-mail to your UM e-mail address (usually via Moodle, but in some cases, directly to your individual 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): The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or by calling 406-243-2243 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services your responsibilities are to contact me to discuss reasonable and appropriate modifications that may be necessary. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide a reasonable and appropriate modification. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at http://life.umt.edu/dss.

- Technical Requirements: Using the Moodle learning environment requires your computer to be set up to view and download documents (.ppsx, .docx. .pdf), webpages, etc. More information can be found on the UMOnline Services and Support website: http://umonline.umt.edu/services-and-support/. Contact UMOnline for assistance: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641; UMOnline technical support e-mail address: umonline-help@umontana.edu. For those of you new to the Moodle Learning Environment, please visit UMOnline http://umonline.umt.edu/, follow the **Moodle NedID Login** link, and once you have logged in, click on the **Moodle 101 for Students** (under Useful Links).

- Naming and Submitting Graded Work: Other than exercises from our textbook, homework and assignments will be available for downloading from our course Moodle site, and should be submitted via Moodle as either .pdf or .docx files. Files should be named with your last name and the assignment or homework number (e.g., "Smith Assignment 1" or "Jones Homework 3"). If your operating system does not allow blank spaces in file names, you may use an underscore "_" (e.g., "Smith_Assignment_1" or "Jones_Homework_3"). Please do not use any other symbols in your file name as I may not be able to open it. **REMINDER**: on days in which we review homework answers in class, you must bring a copy of your completed homework (hard copy or electronic) that you can refer to during our in-class review.

Phonetic Font

- In order to view the phonetic symbols in our course files and to use these symbols to complete your homework/assignments electronically, you must have a phonetic Unicode font installed on your computer. This course uses **Doulos SIL**, a free font available for both Mac and PC operating systems. The font can be downloaded from the Doulos SIL Download webpage: http://software.sil.org/doulos/download/

- Instructions on how to download and install the fonts will vary depending on your computer and operating system. Some advice and links are available from the Doulos SIL Installing and Using Fonts webpage: http://software.sil.org/lcgfonts/resources/installing-and-using-fonts/

- You may find websites such as the IPA Chart Unicode Keyboard webpage: http://westonruter.github.io/ipa-chart/keyboard/ very useful – this site allows you to copy and paste/insert symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) into your documents. There are similar sites as well as other websites that provide further information about phonetic fonts. Feel free to check them out!

- I will post on our Moodle site a .docx file containing all the phonetic symbols needed to transcribe English, which you can use to copy and paste/insert symbols into your documents.

Please note that the font is a tool, not a program that you "run". What you will be using the font for will become clear once we start the course. If you need any help installing fonts, please ask!

Proposed Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Module	In-class (Tuesdays)[1]	Online[2]	Submissions[3]
1	Introduction Phonetics	AUG. 30 Course overview	• Ch. 1- Intro; Ch. 2 – Phonetics • What is Linguistics? • Unit A: Sounds and segments	Questionnaire due by Thursday Sept. 1
2	Phonetics	SEPT. 6 Review: HW1	• Unit B: Consonants • Unit C: Vowels	HW1 due by 9am Tuesday Sept. 6[4]
3	Phonetics	SEPT. 13 Review: HW2	• Unit D: Natural classes • Unit E: Suprasegmentals	HW2 due by Monday Sept. 12
4	Phonetics; Phonology	SEPT. 20 Phonetics wrap-up	• Ch. 3 - Phonology • Unit A: Phonemes and allophones	A1 due by Thursday Sept. 22
5	Phonology	SEPT. 27 Review: HW3	• Unit B: Features • Unit C: Phonological rules	HW3 due by Monday Sept. 26
6	Phonology	OCT. 4 Review: HW4	• Unit D: Phonological processes • Unit E: Syllable structure	HW4 due by Monday Oct. 3
7	Phonology; Morphology	OCT. 11 Phonology wrap-up	• Ch. 4 - Morphology • Unit A: Morphemes • Unit B: Morphophonology	A2 due by Thursday Oct. 13
8	Morphology	OCT. 18 Review: HW5	• Unit C: Morphological processes • Unit D: Derivation and Inflection	HW5 due by Monday Oct. 17
9	Morphology	OCT. 25 Review: HW6	• Unit E: Hierarchical structure of words • Unit F: A closer look at inflection	HW6 due by Monday Oct. 24
10	Morphology; Syntax	NOV. 1 Morphology wrap-up	• Ch. 5 - Syntax • Unit A: Categories • Unit B: Phrase structure	A3 due by Thursday Nov. 3
11	Syntax	NOV. 8 **No Class – Election Day**	• Unit C: Constituency • Unit D: Parts of the phrase	HW7 due by Monday Nov. 7
12	Syntax	NOV. 15 Review: HW7 and HW8	• Unit E: Word-order typology • Unit F: X-bar theory	HW8 due by Monday Nov. 14
13	Syntax; Semantics	NOV. 22 Syntax wrap-up	• Ch. 6 - Semantics • Unit A: Lexical semantics • Unit B: Compositional semantics • Unit C: Pragmatics	
14	Semantics; Review	NOV. 29 Review: HW9 Course wrap-up	• Review • Practice exam	A4 due by 9am Monday Nov. 28[5] HW9 due by Monday Nov. 28
15	Review	DEC. 6 Review: HW10	• Review	HW10 due by Monday Dec. 5

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[1] In addition to homework review and module wrap-ups, Tuesday's classes will include data sets, practice exercises, opportunities for questions, and other activities that put into practice the previous week's units and preview upcoming units.

[2] "Ch." refers to chapters from our textbook O'Grady et al.; "Units" refers to ppts and practice exercises available on Moodle.

[3] Unless otherwise listed, homework and assignments must be uploaded to Moodle by 4pm MST on the days listed.

[4] Due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday Sept. 5, the deadline for HW1 is shifted to the following day (Tuesday) by 9am.

[5] Due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday Nov. 24, the deadline for A4 is shifted to the following Monday by 9am.