



xkcd.com

Linguistic Analysis

LING 470

The University of Montana

Autumn 2017
(Blended Course)

Instructor: Leora Bar-el
Teaching Assistant: Lynn Nelson

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: Mondays 1pm-2:30pm and Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant information

✉ <lynn.nelson@umontana.edu>

📍 Social Science Building, Room 254A

Office hours: Tuesdays 2pm-3pm, Thursdays 10am-11am, Fridays 12pm-1pm.

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 and Thursdays 1:00pm-1:50pm in ED 313 (Phyllis J Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, or EDPJW on the campus map) Online course materials are accessible through [Moodle http://umonline.umt.edu/](http://umonline.umt.edu/) (click on Moodle NetID Login).

Technical Support

UMOnline: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641

UMOnline student support website: <http://umonline.umt.edu/studentsupport>

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 you work through the material in the order it is presented and that 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 also be presented at the beginning of the semester – see Chapter 1 of our textbook. The final week of our 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 and Thursday class meetings will include review of the assigned material, homework 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 are downloadable lecture slides (as well as pdf versions of the slides) that present the central concepts of that unit, in addition to practice exercises.

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. You will work on these in class and then revise and submit them on Moodle.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	HW1,2,10 A1 Final exam
PHONOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	HW3,4,10 A2 Final exam
MORPHOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	HW5,6,10 A3 Final exam
SYNTAX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and discover syntactic categories in familiar/unfamiliar languages • Understand the hierarchical structure of sentences and 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 	HW7,8,10 A4 Final exam
SEMANTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	HW9,10 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 discussions, practice exercises, and other activities, introductory questionnaire, etc. Being absent or late to class will result in deductions to your participation grade.
- Homework (HW) consists of 10 short exercises that you are required to submit over the course of the semester. We will work on HW in class on Thursdays listed in the schedule (with the exception of HW10, which is a practice exam, which you will bring to class completed). You will then revise your HW and upload it to Moodle by 1pm MST the following Tuesday (see schedule below). Each HW is worth 2% of your final grade. Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, HW not submitted by the deadline cannot be accepted and will result in a 0% grade for that HW. These exercises are designed to put your new skills into practice and to ensure that you understand the material. It is to your advantage to come prepared to class having reviewed the assigned material and ready to work on these exercises. It is also to your advantage to then revise your HW before you submit it to confirm that you have a firm grasp on the material. See also 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. With the exception of A4, or otherwise noted, assignments are due by 1pm MST on Tuesdays listed in the schedule below. Assignments are each worth 10% of your final grade. Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, assignments submitted within 24 hours following the deadline will receive a maximum grade of 50%, and assignments submitted after that cannot be accepted and will result in a 0% grade for that assignment. See also submission and file naming instructions below for further details.
- The final exam will take place during finals week on **Thursday December 14, 3:20pm-5:20pm**.
- 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 **12:00pm Friday December 15**. Further information will be made available 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. 2017. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 7th Edition*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's (Macmillan Learning).
- The textbook can purchased from [The Bookstore at UM](http://www.montanabookstore.com/site_course_materials.asp) http://www.montanabookstore.com/site_course_materials.asp. A copy of the book is also available to check out on short term loan from the Mansfield library (see Library Reserves below).
- Chapters 1-4 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.

Other resources

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. [see Mansfield Library holdings listed below]
- Bauer, Laurie and Peter Trudgill (eds.). 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin Books.

Library Reserves and Catalogue

- This course has a Library Course Reserves webpage. From the [Mansfield Library website](http://www.lib.umt.edu) <http://www.lib.umt.edu> click on the Course Reserves tab in the search window. Books on reserve are available from the Information Centre on the main floor of the library (Level 3).
- A copy of *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction 7th Edition* is on reserve and is available for 24 hr checkout. The call number of the book is BA 504.
- The Mansfield library has circulating copies of the current and previous editions of *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, as well as an electronic version of the current (6th) edition that you can connect to from this permalink: <http://search.credreference.com/content/title/bkdictling> [note: you will need to login to your library account to access this online version].

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 [Dean of Students webpage](http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean%20of%20Students/): <http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean%20of%20Students/>. 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://catalog.umt.edu/academics/policies-procedures/): <http://catalog.umt.edu/academics/policies-procedures/>.
- **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](http://www.umt.edu/dss/) website at <http://www.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 student support website](http://umonline.umt.edu/studentsupport): <http://umonline.umt.edu/studentsupport>. Contact UMOline for assistance: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641; [UMOnline technical support e-mail address: umonline-help@umontana.edu](mailto:umonline-help@umontana.edu). For those of you who are new to the Moodle Learning Environment, please visit [UMOnline http://umonline.umt.edu/](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 must be submitted via Moodle as either .pdf or .docx files. Files should be named with your last name and the assignment/homework number (e.g., Smith A1 or Jones HW3). If your operating system does not allow blank spaces in file names, you may use an underscore (e.g., Smith_A1 or Jones_HW3). 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/](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/](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/](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	Day	Date	In class ¹	Online material and textbook readings (to be completed before class) ²	Submissions ³
1	Thurs	Aug. 31	Course overview		
2	Tues	Sept. 5	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch.1 - Language: A Preview What is Linguistics? [§1-3, p.1-13] 	Questionnaire due
	Thurs	Sept. 7	Phonetics HW1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch.2 - Phonetics: The Sounds of Language Module 1: Unit A - Sounds & segments [§1-3, p.17-25] 	
3	Tues	Sept. 12	Phonetics (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1: Unit B - Consonants [§4-5, p.26-38] 	HW1 due
	Thurs	Sept. 14	Phonetics (cont'd) HW2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1: Unit C - Vowels [§6-7, p.38-44] 	
4	Tues	Sept. 19	Phonetics (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1: Unit D - Natural classes Module 1: Unit E - Suprasegmentals [§8, p.45-50] 	HW2 due
	Thurs	Sept. 21	Phonetics (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review module; work on A1 	
5	Tues	Sept. 26	Phonology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch.3 - Phonology: Contrasts and Patterns Module 2: Unit A - Phonemes & allophones [§1, p.69-79; Appendix 1-2, p. 107-8] 	A1 due
	Thurs	Sept. 28	Phonology (cont'd) HW3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2: Unit B - Features [§3, p.91-101] 	
6	Tues	Oct. 3	Phonology (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2: Unit C - Phonological rules [§4, p.102-5; Appendix 3, p.108-9] 	HW3 due
	Thurs	Oct. 5	Phonology (cont'd) HW4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2: Unit D - Phonological processes [Ch.2 §9, p.51-56; Ch.3 Appendix p.110] 	
7	Tues	Oct. 10	Phonology (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2: Unit E - Syllable structure [§2, p.79-91] 	HW4 due
	Thurs	Oct. 12	Phonology (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review module; work on A2 	
8	Tues	Oct. 17	Morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 4 - Morphology: The Analysis of Word Structure Module 3: Unit A - Morphemes [§1.1, p.121-4] Module 3: Unit B - Morphophonology [§1, p.124-5; §6, p.151; Appendix p.153-4] 	A2 due
	Thurs	Oct. 19	Morphology (cont'd) HW5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 3: Unit C - Morphological processes [§1.2, p.125-9; §5, p.142-50] 	

¹ In class activities will include review of assigned material, homework exercises, data sets, opportunities for questions/discussion, and other activities that put into practice the material from the units.

² "Ch." refers to chapters from our textbook O'Grady et al. 2017; "Unit" refers to lecture slides and practice exercises available on Moodle. Section/page numbers in square brackets refer to the relevant textbook sections/pages corresponding to that unit.

³ Unless otherwise listed, HW and assignments must be uploaded to Moodle by 1pm MST on the days listed in the schedule.

9	Tues	Oct. 24	Morphology (cont'd)	• Module 3: Unit D - Derivation and Inflection [§2-4, p.129-142]	HW5 due
	Thurs	Oct. 26	Morphology (cont'd) HW6	• Module 3: Unit E - Hierarchical structure of words	
10	Tues	Oct. 31	Morphology (cont'd)	• Module 3: Unit F - A closer look at inflection	HW6 due
	Thurs	Nov. 2	Syntax	• Review module; work on A3 • Ch.5 - Syntax: The Analysis of Sentence Structure • Module 4: Unit A - Categories [§1.1, p.167-172]	
11	Tues	Nov. 7	Syntax (cont'd)	• Module 4: Unit B - Phrase structure	A3 due
	Thurs	Nov. 9	Syntax (cont'd) HW7	• Module 4: Unit C - Constituency [§1.4, p.178-9]	
12	Tues	Nov. 14	Syntax (cont'd)	• Module 4: Unit D - Parts of the phrase [§1.2, p.172-8; §2, p.179-183]	HW7 due
	Thurs	Nov. 16	Syntax (cont'd) HW8	• Module 4: Unit E - Word-order typology	
13	Tues	Nov. 21	Syntax (cont'd)	• Module 4: Unit F - X-bar theory	HW8 due
	Thurs	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving – No class		
14	Tues	Nov. 28	Syntax (cont'd)	• Review module; work on A4	
	Thurs	Nov. 30	Semantics (cont'd) HW9	• Ch.6 - Semantics: The Analysis of Meaning • Unit A: Lexical semantics [§1, p.217-27] • Unit B: Compositional semantics [§3.1-3.3, p.235-41]	A4 due ⁴
15	Tues	Dec. 5	Semantics (cont'd)	• Unit C: Pragmatics [§4, p.245-51]	HW9 due
	Thurs	Dec. 7	Review HW10 ⁵	• Review for exam; complete HW10⁵	
16	Tues	Dec. 12	Review HW10 (cont'd) Course wrap-up	• Review for exam	HW10 due

This syllabus is subject to change

⁴ Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for A4 is extended to 1pm MST Thursday November 30. Note however that the deadline to review materials from the first two Semantics units is the same day.

⁵ HW 10 is a practice exam. This HW must be completed before class. We will review the answers in class, so be sure to bring a copy (hard copy or electronic copy on your own device) with you that day. Further information will be provided later in the semester.