I DON'T MEAN TO GO ALL LANGUAGE NERD ON YOU, BUT I JUST LEGIT ADVERBED "LEGIT," VERBED "ADVERB," AND ADJECTIVED "LANGUAGE NERD."

xkcd.com

Linguistic Analysis
LING 470
University of Montana

Autumn 2019
(Online)

<u>Instructor</u>: 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

<u>Office hours</u>: For much of the Autumn 2019 semester, I will not be in Missoula. I will be available for office hours via Zoom on a weekly basis. Office hours are by sign-up appointment using my online schedule. Available meeting times will be updated weekly and you are welcome to sign-up for a meeting slot up to 24hrs before a selected time. Further information and the link to my weekly schedule are available on Moodle. You can also reach me by e-mail throughout the course.

Course meeting times and venue
This is an online course that runs for the entire Autumn 2019 semester August 26-December 13. The course is taught online through Moodle (click on Moodle NetID Login).

Technical Support
UMOnline: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641; email; website
IT Central: 406-243-4357; e-mail; website

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 and in what ways are they different?".

Prerequisites
This course has no prerequisites, though an interest in language(s) 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 all course material and deadlines. The schedule on page 5-6 of this syllabus gives a suggested pace of the course, 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 the final exam.

Each module is divided into **units**. The units contain downloadable slides that present the central concepts of that unit, as well as **practice exercises** and corresponding answer keys. Submission of the practice exercises are not required, however, you are encouraged to try them out as they will help ensure that you understand the content of the units.

Throughout this course you will complete five **"Check-in" activities**, which may include an introductory questionnaire, polls, responses from prompts, or short posts. You will complete and submit 20 "**Homework" (HW) exercises**. These short HW exercises will ensure that you are keeping up with and understand the material you are learning and the skills you are acquiring. There are also four **assignments** that you are required to complete and submit during this course. They cover the first four topics of our course (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax). There is no assignment for the semantics module, though the semantics module will be covered on our **practice exam** and our **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/phrases using the International Phonetic Alphabet • Provide articulatory descriptions of sounds in all natural languages • Discover natural classes of sounds in all languages • Understand suprasegmental features such as pitch, length and stress	HW1-4 A1 Practice exam 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	HW5-9 A2 Practice exam 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	HW10-14 A3 Practice exam Final exam
SYNTAX	• 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	HW15-19 A4 Practice exam Final exam
SEMANTICS	• Understand how meaning of words, phrases and sentences are described. • Analyze how semantic meaning is determined by its parts. • Understand how meaning can be affected by context (pragmatics)	HW 20 Practice exam Final exam

Assessment (undergraduate)

Check-ins	(5 x 1% each)	5%
Homework	(20 x 1% each)	20%
Assignments	(4 x 10% each)	40%
Practice exam		5%
Final exam		30%

- There are five **Check-in** activities throughout the course (e.g., questionnaires, polls, responses to a prompt, etc.). Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, check-ins not completed by the deadline cannot be accepted and will result in a 0% grade for that check-in activity.

- **Homework (HW)** consists of 20 short exercises designed to put your new skills into practice and to ensure that you understand the material. Each completed HW exercise will receive a grade of 100% for that HW. HW exercises are due by 9am MST on Wednesdays and Fridays (see schedule below for dates). Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, HW not completed by the deadline cannot be accepted and will result in a 0% grade for that HW.

- **Assignments** will be available for downloading the week before they are due and will cover all the material in the module. Assignments are due by 9am MST on Thursdays (see schedule below for dates). 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% for that assignment. Unless prior arrangements have been made or extenuating circumstances arise, assignments submitted after that cannot be accepted and will result in a 0% grade for that assignment.

- In the last week of our course, prior to our final exam, you will complete a **practice exam**. Further information will be available later in the course.

- The **final exam** will take place during finals week. Further information will be available later in the course. General information about finals week is available on the registrar's website.

Assessment (graduate)

Check-ins	(5 x 1% each)	5%
Homework	(20 x 1% each)	20%
Assignments	(4 x 10% each)	40%
Practice exam		5%
Final exam		25%
Squib		5%

In addition to undergraduate requirements, graduate students will write a 5-page squib. Squibs are due by **9am MST Thursday December 12**. 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 UM Bookstore (follow the Textbooks link). A copy of the textbook 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).

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

Other resources

The following book is not required, but you may find it a useful resource:
- Crystal, David. 2008. *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics 6th edition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [see Mansfield Library holdings listed below]

Library Reserves and Catalogue

- This course has a Library Course Reserves webpage. From the Mansfield Library website 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 [note: you may need to login to your library account to access this online version].

Phonetic Font

- In order to view the phonetic symbols in our course files and to use these symbols to complete your coursework 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.

- 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.

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!

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 Community Standards webpage. 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.

- 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). Check your UM e-mail account often. **You are responsible for ensuring that you are able to receive any course information circulated by e-mail**.

- 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 have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243. If you are already working with Disability Services your responsibilities are to contact me as soon as possible 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.

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

- SUBMITTING GRADED WORK: Unless otherwise noted, completed work must be uploaded to Moodle as .pdf or .docx files. Files should be named with your last name and an appropriate code (e.g., Doe HW1 or Doe_A2). Unless otherwise indicated or an exception is granted, uploaded work must be typed.

- 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 **on your own**.

Basic Needs

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources:

- The UM Food Pantry is located in UC 119. Emergency food for students can be accessed from there and from satellite food cupboards across campus.
- The ASUM Renter Center offers information, support and referrals for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity.
- TRiO Student Support Services serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. Services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their eligibility online.

Schedule at a glance (subject to change)

Weeks	Topics
1-3	Introduction and overview; Module 1: Phonetics
4-6	Module 2: Phonology
7-9	Module 3: Morphology
10-12	Module 4: Syntax
13-14	Module 5: Semantics
15	Course wrap-up and review
16	Finals week

Detailed Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Modules/Units[1]	Deadlines[2]
1	Aug 26-30	**Introduction and overview** • What is Linguistics? [Ch 1: p1-13] **Module 1: Phonetics** • Unit A - Sounds & segments [Ch 2: p17-25]	Check-in 1 (due Aug 29) HW1 (due Aug 30)
2	Sept 2	**Labor Day – no classes**	
	Sept 3-6	**Phonetics (cont'd)** • Unit B - Consonants [Ch 2: p26-38] • Unit C - Vowels [Ch 2: p38-44]	HW2 (due Sept 4) HW3 (due Sept 6)

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[1] "Unit" refers to downloadable slides and practice exercises on Moodle. "Ch." refers to chapters from our textbook O'Grady et al. 2017. Page numbers in square brackets refer to the relevant textbook sections corresponding to that unit.

[2] Unless otherwise noted, graded work must be uploaded to Moodle by 9am MST on the dates listed in the schedule. HWs are due on Wednesdays and Fridays, Assignments are due on Thursdays. Check-in deadlines vary. Due dates for Check-ins 2-5 are not listed in the schedule but will be announced throughout the course.

3	Sept 9-13	**Phonetics (cont'd)** • Unit D - Natural classes • Unit E - Suprasegmentals [Ch 2: p45-50] • Module wrap-up [Ch 2: p56-60, p60-62]	HW4 (due Sept 11)
4	Sept 16-20	**Phonology** • Unit A - Phonemes & allophones [Ch 3: p69-79, p107-8 (#1-2)]	A1 (due Sept 19) HW5 (due Sept 20)
5	Sept 23-27	**Phonology (cont'd)** • Unit B - Features [Ch 3: p91-101)] • Unit C - Phonological rules [Ch 3: p102-5, p108-9 (#3)]	HW6 (due Sept 25) HW7 (due Sept 27)
6	Sept 30-Oct 4	**Phonology (cont'd)** • Unit D - Phonological processes [Ch 2: p51-56[*]; Ch.3: p110] • Unit E - Syllable structure [Ch 3: p79-91] • Module wrap-up [Ch 3: p105-7]	HW8 (due Oct 2) HW9 (due Oct 4)
7	Oct 7-11	**Morphology** • Unit A - Morphemes [Ch 4: p121-4] • Unit B - Morphophonology [Ch 4: p124-5, p151, p153-4]	HW10 (due Oct 9) A2 (due Oct 10) HW11 (due Oct 11)
8	Oct 14-18	**Morphology (cont'd)** • Unit C - Morphological processes [Ch 4: p125-9, p142-50] • Unit D - Derivation and Inflection [Ch 4: p129-142] • Unit E - A closer look at inflection	HW12 (due Oct 16) HW13 (due Oct 18)
9	Oct 21-25	**Morphology (cont'd)** • Unit F - Hierarchical structure of words [Review Ch 4: p129-134] • Module wrap-up [Ch 4: p151-3]	HW14 (due Oct 23)
10	Oct 28-Nov 1	**Syntax** • Unit A - Categories [Ch 5: p167-172] • Unit B - Phrase structure [Ch 5: p172-8, p207-9]	HW15 (due Oct 30) A3 (due Oct 31) HW16 (due Nov 1)
11	Nov 4-8	**Syntax (cont'd)** • Unit C - Constituency [Ch 5: p178-9] • Unit D - Parts of the phrase [Ch 5: p179-183, p198-9]	HW17 (due Nov 6) HW18 (due Nov 8)
12	Nov 11	**Veterans Day – no classes**	
	Nov 12-15	**Syntax (cont'd)** • Unit E - Word-order typology • Module wrap-up	HW19 (due Nov13)
13	Nov 18-22	**Semantics** • Unit A: Lexical semantics [Ch 6: p217-27] • Unit B: Compositional semantics [Ch 6: p235-41]	A4 (due Nov 21) HW20 (due Nov22)
14	Nov 25-26	**Semantics (cont'd)** • Unit C: Pragmatics [Ch 6: p245-51]	
	Nov 27-29	**Thanksgiving – No classes**	
15	Dec 2-6	Course wrap-up and review	Practice exam (due Dec 4)
FINALS WEEK DEC 9-13			

This syllabus is subject to change

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[*] Phonological processes are discussed in Chapter 2 of our textbook.