

Linguistics 3311-001–Introduction to Linguistic Science

Fall 2011
UT Arlington

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Joey Sabbagh
Office: Hammond Hall 407
Email: sabbagh@uta.edu

Class meeting time & location:
T/Th., 12:30pm-1:50pm, COBA 252
Office Hours:
W 11-12, Th 2:30-3:30, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Jessica Rohr
Office:
Email

COURSE OVERVIEW

Introduction to linguistic analysis, primarily including core areas such as the sound patterns of languages (Phonetics and Phonology), words and word formation (Morphology), sentence structure (Syntax), and meaning (Semantics and Pragmatics). Drawing upon data from a variety of languages, this course will emphasize the methods of linguistic analysis and ability to solve problems in each of the above areas.

COURSE GOALS

This course has four goals: i) To teach you something about language; ii) to teach you how to draw generalizations based on accurate and concise observations about linguistic data; iii) to teach you how to reason analytically and how to provide explanations for an observed pattern; and iv) to provide you with training in writing up your observations, analyses, and explanations.

TEXTBOOK

The textbook for this course is *Language Files*, 11th edition (referred to below simply as *Files*). Specific reading assignments are listed below. **Please note:** Although this textbook is required and you are responsible for knowing its content, we will almost always be going beyond this text in the classroom. Homework assignments will more often than not be based on the content and details of the lectures rather than the book. The book, in other words, is not a substitute for coming to class.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS & READINGS¹

Week 1 (Aug. 25) / General Concepts. What is language, what is linguistics?

Reading: Files 1.0; 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4.

Week 2 (Aug. 30 & Sept. 1) / General concepts (cont.)

Assignment 1: Handed out Thursday Sept. 1, Due Thursday Sept. 8 in class.

Week 3 (Sept. 6 & 8) / Morphology

Reading: Files 4.0; 4.1.

Week 4 (Sept. 13 & 15) / Morphology (cont.)

Reading: Files 4.2; 4.3*; 4.4; 4.5.

Assignment 2: Handed out Thursday Sept. 15, Due Thursday Sept. 22 in class.

Week 5 (Sept. 20 & 22) / Phonetics

Reading: Files 2.0; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; *2.4; *2.5.

Assignment 3: Handed out Thursday Sept. 22, Due Thursday Sept. 29.

Week 6 (Sept. 26 & 29) / Phonetics (cont.)

Phonetics Quiz: Thursday, Sept. 29 in class.

Week 7 (Oct. 4 & 6) / Phonology

Reading: Files 3.1; 3.2

Assignment 4 Handed out Thursday Oct. 6, Due Thursday Oct. 13 in class.

Week 8 (Oct. 11 & 13) / Phonology (cont.)

Reading: Files 3.3; 3.5.

Assignment 5: Handed out Thursday Oct. 13, Due Oct. 20 in class.

Week 9 (Oct. 18 & 20) / Review and Special Presentation

Week 10 (Oct. 25 & 28) / Syntax

Reading: Files 5.0; 5.1; 5.2; 5.3

Assignment 6: Handed out on Thursday Oct. 28, Due Thursday Nov. 3 in class.

Week 11 (Nov. 1 & 3) / Syntax (cont.)

Reading: Files 5.4; 5.5.

Assignment 7: Handed out Thursday Nov. 3, Due Thursday Nov. 10 in class.

Week 12 (Nov. 8 & 10) / Syntax (cont.)

Assignment 8: Handed out Thursday Nov. 8, Due Thursday Nov. 18 in class.

Week 13 (Nov. 15 & 18) / Semantics

Reading: Files 6.0; 6.1; 6.2.

¹Preliminary ambitious version, subject to changes as we go along.

Week 14 (Nov. 22) / Semantics (cont.)

Reading: Files 6.3; 6.4.

Assignment 9: Handed out Tuesday Nov. 22, Due Thursday Dec. 1 in class.

Week 15 (Nov.29 & Dec. 1) / Pragmatics

Reading: Files 7.0; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4*; 7.5

Assignment 10: Handed out Thursday Dec. 1, Due Thursday Dec. 8 in class.

Week 16 (Dec. 6 & 8) / Review, Q &A

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **10 homework assignments** (8% each, 80% total). Homework assignments are the most important component of this class not only for developing a deeper grasp of the class content but also in terms of your overall grade. Plan to devote a fair amount of time for these assignments, and make sure that what you submit is your best work.

Assignments will typically be handed out on a Thursday and due the following Thursday in class. They will be returned to you by the following Tuesday in class, and we will usually discuss them as a class. Homework assignments will range from fairly straightforward problems to more challenging and difficult ones. For the more challenging problems, there may not always be one correct answer. What is important, however, is that you arrive at a plausible solution and present your reasons for your analysis in logical, clear, and concise prose. All homework assignments must be *typed*, except where otherwise indicated. You may, and are encouraged, to work with your classmates on all assignments. However, you must write up your answers on your own and *in your own words* (failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty).

- **Quiz on Phonetics** (5%). There will be a short phonetics quizz following the conclusion of this section on Thursday Sept. 29.
- **Participation** (5%): Attend all classes (and show up on time) and participate occasionally or frequently in class discussion.
- **A Final Exam** (10%) There will be a comprehensive final example on Thursday, December 15 from 11am-1:30pm. The final exam covers all topics and material of the course. Like the midterm, the format of the final exam will resemble the format of your homework assignments.

GRADING

Your grade for all requirements will be determined as follows: Each requirement will be worth a certain number of points (e.g. assignments will typically be 50 points). Your grade on each assignment will be determined on the basis of the percentage of points earned to points possible: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59-0% = F. Your final grade will be determined in the same fashion but taking into account the weightings described above.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Electronic devices: Please turn off and keep off all pagers, electronic games, MP3 and CD players, and cell-phones. If you are using a lap-top, please use it only for course related matters—failure to do so will negatively affect your participation grade.

Attendance: Attendance in this class is required. Missing more than two classes will negatively affect your participation grade, and will make other aspects of the class difficult for you.

Late submission of assignments: Turn in all assignments on time. Late assignments will be accepted but with a grade penalty of up to two grade points (late assignments will not be accepted for credit once a new assignment is handed out). Assignments submitted late are unlikely to be returned to you in a timely manner, and they will not receive the same amount of feedback as an assignment handed in on time.

OTHER POLICIES

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Integrity: At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents Rule 50101, Section 2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the students suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty, as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges. (see: <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlingtons effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Auditors: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.