Linguistics 350—Introduction to Linguistics (GER: SS)

Spring 2017, Mon/Wed 11:00am–12:15pm, LUB S165
Section LEC 001, class no. 57107

Instructor Nicholas Fleisher
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Office hours Thu 10am–12pm and by appointment (Johnston Hall 127)

Course description An introduction to the scientific study of language. We will focus on a broad range of topics in the structure (phonology, syntax, semantics), usage (pragmatics, sociolinguistics) and physical/temporal setting (phonetics, historical linguistics) of natural languages. Classes will consist of lecture, discussion, and data analysis involving a wide sample of languages. Course requirements include participation, problem sets, two midterm exams, and a final paper/project.

Course readings Readings will consist of lecture notes/handouts and related readings posted to D2L. Those interested in a textbook to accompany the course might consider (i) O’Grady et al., Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction, 6th ed., Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010, or (ii) Fromkin et al., Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistic Theory, Wiley, 2000.
⇒ THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK FOR (THIS SECTION OF) THIS COURSE.

Course outline

1. Phonetics, phonology, morphology (weeks 1–5): Articulation and perception of speech sounds, the grammar of sound systems and word-level phenomena
2. Syntax, semantics, pragmatics (weeks 6–11): Structure and interpretation, meaning in context
3. Historical linguistics, typology, sociolinguistics (weeks 12–14): Language variation and change, social factors in linguistic diversity

Course requirements, grade component weighting, and credit hour policy

• Regular attendance and participation in discussion
• Problem sets (8 total, due dates on reverse; lowest problem set grade dropped)
• Two midterms (Feb. 27 and Apr. 17)
• Final project on a linguistic topic of your choosing (presentation + 5-pg paper, due May 10)
• Weighting: participation + problem sets, 60%; midterms, 15% each; final paper/project, 10%
⇒ THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN (THIS SECTION OF) THIS COURSE
• Credit hour policy: this 3-credit course meets for 2.5 hours per week during the semester; students are expected to put in approximately 7.5 hours of additional work per week studying and working on assignments in order to meet the learning goals of the course (144 hours total)

Course policies

• Problem set collaboration: You are encouraged to work together with your classmates on the problem sets. Linguistic data analysis can be difficult, and study groups can aid in everyone’s understanding of the material. There is no need to struggle alone with a difficult problem set.
• Though you are encouraged to collaborate on the problem sets, THE WORK YOU TURN IN MUST BE YOUR OWN. That is, while you may discuss the problems with others in the class, you must write up your answers individually. (For information on plagiarism, see http://guides.library.uwm.edu/noplagiarism.) PLEASE NOTE THE NAMES OF THOSE YOU WORK WITH ON A PROBLEM SET
• Late work will not be accepted for credit, barring a legitimate (e.g., medical) documented excuse.
• For university policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, etc., see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf
Week-by-week overview

1. **Jan 23–25**
   Introduction; phonetics

2. **Jan 30–Feb 1**
   Phonetics: articulatory and acoustic

3. **Feb 6–8**
   Phonology: phonemes, rules
   *Problem set 1 due Mon, Feb 6*

4. **Feb 13–15**
   Phonology: ordering, syllables
   *Problem set 2 due Mon, Feb 13*

5. **Feb 20–22**
   Morphology; phonetics/phonology/morphology review
   *Problem set 3 due Mon, Feb 20*

6. **Feb 27–Mar 1**
   ⇒ **MIDTERM 1: MON, FEB 27**
   Syntax: overview

7. **Mar 6–8**
   Syntax: constituency, movement

8. **Mar 13–15**
   Syntax: binding, islands
   *Problem set 4 due Mon, Mar 13*
   **Mar 20–22:** NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

9. **Mar 27–29**
   Semantics: inferences, lexical semantics
   *Problem set 5 due Mon, Mar 27*

10. **Apr 3–5**
    Semantics/pragmatics: determiners, questions and answers
    *Problem set 6 due Mon, Apr 3*

11. **Apr 10–12**
    Pragmatics: deixis; syntax/semantics/pragmatics review
    *Problem set 7 due Mon, Apr 10*

12. **Apr 17–19**
    ⇒ **MIDTERM 2: MON, APR 17**
    Historical linguistics: sound change

13. **Apr 24–26**
    Historical linguistics: contact, creoles

14. **May 1–3**
    Sociolinguistics
    *Problem set 8 due Mon, May 1*

15. **May 8–10**
    Final project presentations
    *Final project papers due Wed, May 10*