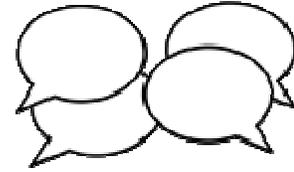




Utah State University
LING/ANTH 4100: Study of Language
Syllabus-Fall 2017



Instructor: Dr. Abdulkafi Albirini
Course time & place: 8:30-9:20 MWF, 304 Old Main

Office hours: 9:30-10:30 a.m. MW
Office: 202H Old Main

I. Course goals:

The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theory and methodology of linguistics and its various subfields. We will survey ways in which human languages are structured, acquired, used, and transformed based on cognitive, contextual, social, and historical factors. This course assumes that students have little to no background knowledge/experience in general linguistics and linguistic theory.

Therefore, we will work together this semester to achieve the following objectives:

- gain factual information about a number of core concepts and principles in the field of linguistics
- gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the study of language;
- develop basic skills in linguistic analysis.

II. Course resources:

Required Textbook:

An Introduction to Language (10th edition, 2014) by Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams.

The book is available at the University bookstore, and it may be purchased online as well.

Supplemental Materials:

The rest of the required readings as well as lecture notes, homework assignments, exercises and grades will be posted on the LING/ANTH 4100 Canvas site. Go to <https://www.my.usu.edu/> to access the website.

III. Student Responsibilities & Major Assignments:

The five major requirements of the course include:

- Classroom participation and attendance (15% of final grade): Students enrolled in this course are expected to be in class on time and not to miss classes except in cases of illness, family emergency, and things of that nature. Students should come prepared to class. Preparation includes reading the assigned materials and being ready to participate actively in discussions regarding the theme of the week. Carefully reading the articles and book chapters will allow you to contribute meaningfully to in-class discussion/ activities and better prepare you for exams and other assignments in this course. According to the attendance policy of this course, students are allowed three absences per semester, which they can use in cases of illness, family emergency, and

things of that nature. However, after the third absence, one percentage point will be deducted from their attendance grade for every absence. Your attendance grade is 15 minus any absences.

- Homework exercises (24% of final grade): Homework exercises provide students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge and analytic skills learned during the semester. Homework exercises are assigned on Wednesdays and are due on the following Mondays. They will be graded for completeness and correctness. There will be 4 homework exercises. You must submit the assignments as Word documents on Canvas. No make-up can be made for any missed exercise except in cases of documented emergencies. Collaboration among students is permitted, but the assignment write-up should be done individually.
- Midterm exam (20% of final grade): The midterm exam will be given in class on Monday, 23 October. The exam will be multiple choice questions. The exam is cumulative, that is, it covers all material in the textbook and other course materials up to the time when the test is taken. A missed midterm exam cannot be made up except in cases of documented emergency.
- Final exam (25% of final grade): The final exam will be given on (TBA) in 304 Old Main. The final exam is cumulative and the format is multiple choice and short-answer questions. In the event you have an exam conflict, please contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.
- Final research project (16% of final grade): Students will work individually to produce a five-page, double-spaced research proposal. In this proposal, students will draft a research proposal on a topic relevant to linguistic research. A brief (100 words) abstract of the paper is due on 24 November. I will provide prompt feedback on these abstracts. Students will prepare a 3-minute presentation of their proposals to be made on 6 & 8 December. In the presentation, you need to indicate your topic, its significance, its methodology, and implications of your research if it were to be carried out. The breakdown of the final project grade is: abstract (3 points), presentation (3 points), and full paper (10 points). The paper is due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, 8 December.

The final paper should include the following sections in order:

- Title and name
- Abstract: around 150 words
- Introduction: Explain your interest in the study. Explicate why this topic is important. Indicate what you aim to achieve by studying this topic.
- Methods: explain your choice of the participants and materials and why they are appropriate for the topic you choose
- Implications of your study (if carried out) for research on this topic or for understanding the phenomenon of interest.
- References

Assignment Policy:

- All assignments should be turned in latest by 11:59 p.m. on the due day.
- All assignments should be typed in a 12-point Times Roman font.
- All assignments should be submitted as Word documents through Canvas (Please DO NOT send your assignment through email, even if it is late).
- If your assignment is between 1 and 24 hours late you will be penalized 20% of the assigned points. After one day of the due date, the assignment will be considered missing and zero points will be the official grade.
- Plagiarism is highly discouraged. Students are expected to acknowledge source materials. Please let me know if you have any questions about this issue.

V. Assessment:

The students' final grade will be the culmination of their grades on all class requirements. The students' final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation	15%
Homework exercises (6 * 4 exercises)	24%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Final project (3 points for abstract, 3 for presentation, 10 for paper)	16%
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Total	100%

VI. Grading:

This course will be graded based on the following scale:

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

VIII. Important Dates:

Mon, 28 August	Beginning of instruction
Mon, 4 September	Labor Day (no class)
Friday, 20 October	Fall Break, class re-scheduled to 19 October
Wed-Fri, 22-24 November	Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)
Fri, 8 December	Last day of instruction
Fri, 8 December	Research Paper due by 11:59 p.m.

Class schedule

You are expected to do the readings before class on the day they are listed.

Dates	Topics & Exercises	Readings
Week 1		
28 Aug	What is Language	Introduction: What is Language & Linguistics?
30 Aug		Ch. 1 Linguistic Knowledge
1 Sept.		Ch.1 What is Grammar—Language Universals
Week 2		
4 Sept	Labor Day	No class
6 Sept	What is Language	Ch.1 Animal Language—Language and Thought
8 Sept	Brain & Language	Ch. 2 The Human Brain
Week 3		
11 Sept	Brain & Language	Ch. 2 The Autonomy of Language—Language and Brain Development
13 Sept	Morphology	Ch. 3 Content and Function Words
15 Sept		Ch. 3 Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning-“Pullet Surprises”
Week 4		
18 Sept		Ch. 3 Rules of Word Formation
20 Sept	Morphology	Ch. 3 Morphological Analysis: Identifying Morphemes
22 Sept	Syntax	Ch. 4 What the Syntax Rules Do?
Week 5		
25 Sept	HW1 What is Language & Brain due	Ch. 4 Sentence Structure
27 Sept	Syntax	Ch. 4 Sentence Relatedness
29 Sept		Ch. 4 Syntactic Dependencies-UG Principles & Parameters
Week 6		
2 Oct		Ch. 5 What Speakers Know about Sentence—Compositional Semantics
4 Oct	Semantics	Ch. 5 Lexical Semantics
6 Oct		Ch. 5 Pragmatics
Week 7		
9 Oct	Phonetics HW2 Morphology due	Ch. 6 Sound Segments
11 Oct		Ch. 6 Articulatory Phonetics
13 Oct		Ch. 6 Prosodic Features—Phonetic Symbols and Spelling
Week 8		
16 Oct		Ch. 6 Prosodic Features—Phonetic Symbols and Spelling
18 Oct	Phonology	Ch. 7 The Pronunciation of Morphemes—Phonemes: The Phonological Units of Language
19 Oct		Ch. 7 The Rules of Phonology—Prosodic Phonology
Week 9		
23 Oct	Midterm Exam	Ch. 7 Prosodic Phonology—Why Do Phonological Rules Exist?
25 Oct		Ch. 7 Phonological Analysis

27 Oct	Language Acquisition	Ch. 8 Mechanisms of Language Acquisition
Week 10		
30 Oct	Language Acquisition	Ch. 8 Mechanisms of Language Acquisition
1 Nov		Ch. 8 Knowing More Than One Language
3 Nov		Ch. 8 Is There a Critical Period for L2 Acquisition?
Week 11		
6 Nov	HW3 Syntax & Semantics	Ch. 10 Dialects
8 Nov	Language in Society	Ch. 10 Languages in Contact
10 Nov		Ch. 10 Language and Education
Week 12		
13 Nov	Language in Society	Ch. 10 Language in Use Language and Gender: Deborah Tannen: "Women and Men in Conversation" (on Canvas)
15 Nov	Language Change	Ch. 11 The Regularity of Sound Change-Syntactic Change
17 Nov		Ch. 11 Lexical Change
Week 13		
20 Nov	HW4 Phonetics & Phonology due	Ch. 11 Restructuring "Dead" Languages—Extinct and Endangered Languages
22 Nov	Thanksgiving break	No class
24 Nov		No class
Week 14		
27 Nov	Language Change Final Project Abstract due	Ch. 11 The Genetic Classification of Languages—Why Do Languages Change?
29 Nov	Writing	Ch. 12 Writing and Speech
1 Dec	Writing	Ch. 12 The History of Writing—Modern Writing Systems
Week 15		
4 Dec	Review	Review for the Final Exam
6 Dec	Student Presentations due	Students' presentations of their final projects
8 Dec		Students' presentations of their final projects

VIII. Academic Integrity, "The Honor System"

(http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/teaching/syllabus_resources.cfm)

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students. The Honor Pledge: To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

IX. Disability Services:

(http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/teaching/syllabus_resources.cfm)

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor..."

X. Classroom Etiquette:

- The materials created by the instructor for this course are not for public distribution. Please do not use the class materials for any purposes outside this class because, if you do so, you violate **the instructor's copyrights**.
- Please do not engage in activities that may disrupt the instructional process, negatively influence the learning of your classmates, or convey disrespect to your colleagues or instructor. Examples of disruptive classroom activities include:
 - ✓ **Use of cellphones**
 - ✓ **Late arrival to class** (except in extenuating circumstances)
 - ✓ **Early departure from class**
 - ✓ **Side conversations**
 - ✓ **Using class time to review or read materials that are not related to this course.**
 - ✓ **Sleeping inside the classroom**
 - ✓ **Use of insulting or discriminatory language**