Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201:01)

Spring 2021

Instructor:	Chaoyi Chen	**Time**:	M Th, 11:30 – 12:50 ET
Email:	chaoyi.chen@rutgers.edu	**Place**:	Zoom (synchronous)
Course page:	canvas.rutgers.edu	**Office hours**:	W Th, 14:00 -15:00 ET

Course content

This course is an introduction to the study of linguistics and contemporary linguistic theory. Linguistics is a broad term that encompasses basically anything concerning the scientific study of human language. In particular, this course will cover five key areas of modern linguistic theory: **morphology** (the study of words and word formation), **syntax** (the study of how sentences and phrases are built and structured), **semantics** (the study of how words and phrases are associated with meaning), **phonetics** and **phonology** (the study of "speech sounds" and their interactive patterns).

Course learning goals

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand significant subfields within linguistics.

- Understand, create, and manipulate representations and analyses in morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology.

Department learning goals met by this course:

- Students will reason about language; identify how incorrect or irrational assumptions and prejudices distort understanding of language; demonstrate knowledge about language in the world including a sophisticated understanding of linguistic and cultural variation, and evaluate popular views on the nature of human languages and their speakers.

- Majors and Minors will also demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology and semantics and apply linguistic theory in these areas. They will investigate linguistic data and analyze it; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains of linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics that they have learned in the core courses to new topics; and access current research in the field. Some students will investigate language in a broader context, where it can be systematically and rationally explored using their sophisticated understanding how language works.

This course has been approved as a Core Curriculum Course and satisfies these 2 Core Curriculum learning goals:

- Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers. [**AHq**]

- Apply effective and efficient mathematical or other formal processes to reason and to solve problems. [**QR**]

Visit http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/requirements/core for information on the Core Curriculum.

Course website and Zoom platform

This course has a website on Canvas (canvas.rutgers.edu). Log on using your NetID and password, and then look for the course in your Dashboard or Courses. If you encounter difficulty using Canvas, please contact their Helpdesk. All lectures and office hours take place on Zoom (rutgers.zoom.us). Meeting links will be posted on Canvas's syllabus section. You must join the class with your full real name. You are welcome, though not required to, keep your videos on. To protect your privacy, you may select a virtual background.

Evaluation and required work

Your final grade is based on assignments, midterm and final exams, and attendance/participation. The percentage-wise breakdown and the grading scale are given below. You need a grade of C (or above) for this course to declare linguistics major or minor.

Grading		Grading Scale	
Assignments (best 6/8)	50%	A	$\geq 90\%$
Midterm Exam	20%	B+	85 - 89.9%
Final Exam	20%	B	80 - 84.9%
Participation	10%	C+	75 - 79.9%
		C	70 - 74.9%
		D	60 - 69.9%
		F	< 60

- **Participation**   You are expected to attend every lecture session synchronously. If you are missing a class, please let me know via email in advance and view the recording(s) before the next class.

- **Assignments and exams**   Assignments and exams must be submitted to Canvas by the due date and time. Late submissions are NOT accepted. Students may not collaborate on answering questions in homework assignments or exams; homework assignments and exams must be done independently. Collaboration is a violation of the Academic Integrity policy. Missed exams will result in a score of zero for the exam, unless accompanied by proof of illness or due to a religious observance.

- **Extra Credit**   You will have the opportunity to raise your final grade by up to **2** points through experimental participation. All experiments will be conducted online. More details will be disclosed during the semester.

Office hours

- To reduce waiting time, if you plan to visit my office hour, you should inform me the day before your visit by email (chaoyi.chen@rutgers.edu).

- Extra appointments must be scheduled at least 5 days in advance.

- You are expected to identify in advance the specific questions you want to discuss. In addition to the course materials, you are also more than welcome to discuss other materials on linguistics with me.

- Please be aware that the office hours CANNOT be used for re-teaching the materials and I cannot help with solutions of assignments that are not yet graded.

Readings

You must keep up with the readings (they should be be very manageable). The required readings have been posted as pdf files on Canvas. You do not need to buy a textbook for this course. If you'd like to read more about linguistics, here are some suggestions:

- Adger, David. 2019. *Language unlimited: The science behind our most creative power.* Oxford University Press, USA

- Baker, Mark C. 2008. *The atoms of language: The mind's hidden rules of grammar.* Basic books

- Roberts, Ian. 2017. *The wonders of language: Or, How to make noises and influence people.* Cambridge University Press

General policies

The following policies are provided at ling.rutgers.edu > Academics > Undergraduate > Learning Goals and Policies (a direct link is here). It is the responsibility of all students to read and abide by the policies:

- Rutgers Code of Student Conduct

- Policy on Religiously Observant Students

- Students with Disabilities

- Attendance Policy

- Academic Integrity (See here for the updated version)

- Concerns

- Email and Contact Information Policy

Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change, but hopefully it helps you get your bearings.

Week	Dates	Monday	Thursday	Notes
01	Jan 21	—	Intro 1	
02	Jan 25 & Jan 28	Intro 2	Morphology	
03	Feb 01 & Feb 04	Morphology	Morphology	HW1 Assigned
04	Feb 08 & Feb 11	Morphology	Syntax	HW2 Assigned
05	Feb 15 & Feb 18	Syntax	Syntax	HW3 Assigned
06	Feb 22 & Feb 25	Syntax	Syntax	HW4 Assigned
07	Mar 01 & Mar 04	Syntax	Semantics	
08	Mar 08 & Mar 11	Midterm review	MIDTERM	
09	Mar 15 & Mar 18	SPRING BREAK		
10	Mar 22 & Mar 25	Semantics	Semantics	HW5 Assigned
11	Mar 29 & Apr 01	Semantics	Semantics	HW6 Assigned
12	Apr 05 & Apr 08	Phonetics	Phonetics	
13	Apr 12 & Apr 15	Phonetics	Phonetics	HW7 Assigned
14	Apr 19 & Apr 22	Phonology	Phonology	
15	Apr 26 & Apr 29	Phonology	Phonology	HW8 Assigned
16	May 03	Review	–	
		FINAL EXAM		