

Introduction to Linguistic Theory

01:615:201:04

Instructor: Jill Harper

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Email: jillian.harper@rutgers.edu

Location: Canvas

Office hour: Thursdays from 20:00-21:00 EST (8pm-9pm)

Office: Virtual! @

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/94212938866?pwd=QmdxUWtmRnA3Tm13WXIvQml6enlxdz09>

Readings: There is no required textbook. All required readings will be posted to Canvas.

Prerequisite: None

About this course

This course is an introduction to the study of linguistics and contemporary linguistic theory. Linguistics is a broad term that encompasses basically anything having to do with the scientific study of human language.

In this course, we'll focus on several 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), and phonetics and phonology (the study of "speech sounds", broadly — scare quotes because we can also study the phonetics and phonology of signed languages!).

Departmental Learning Goals:

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 satisfies the following learning goals from the Core Curriculum:

- 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]

Note: You must get a C or better for this course to count for the Linguistics Major/Minor.

Course Design:

This is an **asynchronous** course, which means that there will be no live lectures to attend. Although there is no set class time, please be mindful of deadlines for completing assignments

The general structure of the course will be as follows:

- Lecture videos and any readings will be available by **Monday**.
 - All **homework assignments (including discussion board responses)** are due **Saturday at noon** (five days later).
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Homework Assignments:

There will be 8 homework assignments. Please see the tentative course schedule at the end of syllabus for more information on when these will be assigned— certain dates may need to be adjusted. Any changes to due dates will be announced via Canvas. I will drop your lowest two scores (only 6 of 8 will count towards your final grade). Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Please submit all assignments as a PDF.

Participation:

Although this is an online course, students are still expected to be engaged with the material, and to actively participate. There will be a discussion board posted most weeks. You are expected to contribute to these discussions. Please consult the participation rubric to find out how responses to these discussions are graded.

Exams:

There will be two exams: a midterm and final. Each exam will be worth 20% of your grade. Both exams will be open-note. These will be timed. You will have two hours to complete the exam, once started, but you will be given a 48-hour timeframe to access it on Canvas.

Grading:

Participation: 10%
Homework/Quizzes: 50%
Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A
85-89.9% = B+
80-84.9% = B
75-79.9% = C+
70-74.9% = C
60-69.9% = D
< 60% = F

Extra Credit:

Students typically have an opportunity to earn extra credit by participating in research studies that are conducted by various faculty and graduate students. Your name is automatically added to the online experiment system, SONA (<https://rutgerslinguistics.sona-systems.com/>), where you will be able to sign up for available studies after they have been posted.

Note that this is a different system than the one that Psychology uses (so please be sure that you sign onto the one for Linguistics). These studies typically take anywhere from

20-45 minutes to complete. Any student who is currently enrolled in this class is eligible to participate.

You have the right not to participate. If you do not wish to participate in a study, but would still like the opportunity to earn extra credit, please see me for an alternative assignment.

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Disability access:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form (<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>).

Full disability policies and procedures are at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Contact information: (848) 445-6800

Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Academic integrity policy: You are expected to know and follow the Rutgers University policy on Academic Integrity: <https://nbprovost.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-students>

Cheating, plagiarizing, presenting someone else's work as your own, and not properly acknowledging another student's contribution will not be tolerated. Nor will sharing the content of this course's assignments outside of the class.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

As defined by the University, plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course.

Title IX statement:

Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or

sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University.

Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University Policy 10.3.12. For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit www.endsexualviolence.rutgers.edu.

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Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):

(848) 932-7884

17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA):

(848) 932-1181

3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

www.vpva.rutgers.edu

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Scarlet Listeners: (732) 247-5555

www.scarletlisteners.com

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/account/create?returnUrl=/organization/scarletlisteners>

<https://www.facebook.com/scarletlisteners/>

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(Tentative) Course Schedule

Week	Date (Monday)	Topic	Homework Due (Sat)
1	Jan 19 (Tues)	Fundamentals	
2	Jan 25	Morphology	HW1 (due 1/30)
3	Feb 1	Morphology	HW2 (due 2/6)
4	Feb 8	Syntax	
5	Feb 15	Syntax	HW3 (due 2/20)
6	Feb 22	Syntax	HW4 (due 2/27)
7	Mar 1	Review	Optional: Review Set
8	Mar 8	Midterm	
9	Mar 15	SPRING BREAK	
10	Mar 22	Semantics	
11	Mar 29	Semantics	HW 5 (due 4/3)
12	Apr 5	Phonetics	HW6 (due 4/10)
13	Apr 12	Phonology	
14	Apr 19	Phonology	HW 7 (due 4/24)
15	Apr 26	Phonology	HW 8 (due 5/1)
16	May 3	Review	Optional: Review Set

For tech help with Canvas or Sakai, please visit <https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support>.