



COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2023

ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR “HOW TO BE QUIET: ELLIPSIS AND LINGUISTIC THEORY”

01:615:497

Classes begin **January 17th** and end on **May 1st**

Academic Calendar Directory: <https://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/academic-calendar-directory>

You are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus in your personal files for use when applying for future degrees, certifications, or transfer of credit.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Troy Messick
Email: troy.messick@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Monday/Thursday 1PM-2PM (on Zoom or in-person)

Communication:

Throughout the semester, I will communicate with you via either **Canvas Announcements** or your **Rutgers email account**. Please review the following link for [Accessing Rutgers Email](#):

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/documentation/general/accessing-rutgers-email/>

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description:

Prerequisites: Being a senior and 615:201 and one of 615:305 || 615:315: || 615:325

Course Modality:

This course is delivered **in person**.

Days and time: Monday and Thursday 8:30AM-9:50AM

Location: Scott Hall Room 119

To access the companion Canvas course site, please visit [Rutgers Canvas](https://canvas.rutgers.edu/) at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/> and log in using your NetID. For more information about course access and support contact [Canvas Help](https://canvas.rutgers.edu/canvas-help/) at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/canvas-help/>, via email at help@canvas.rutgers.edu, or call 877-361-1134.

Purpose of the Course:

The topic of course is on ellipsis in natural language. Ellipsis interacts with many aspects of a speaker's grammar: syntax, semantics, morphology, pragmatics (and to a lesser extent phonology). This class will discuss what ellipsis is, the conditions on when it is possible, and how it varies across languages.

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

- Apply the tools of linguistic analysis from the core courses to a particular topic.
- Identify projects related to the topic of the course.
- Search a variety of resources for material relevant to their project.

Department learning goals met by this course:

- Students will reason about language scientifically; demonstrate knowledge of cross-linguistic variability and universal patterns in language; evaluate a range of views on the nature, origin, and/or structure of language; and identify what someone knows when they know a language.
- 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.

MATERIALS

Required Texts: No required text. All readings will be posted to the canvas site.

Technology Requirements:

This course may require that you access online resources in the University's Canvas site. Please review the following link for [Canvas Student Resources](#) for assistance on getting started in Canvas:

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/students/>

Additional Technical Requirements:

Review Rutgers' [Tech Guides](#) at: <https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/>

GRADING

Final Course Grade:

Grades in this class are assigned Pass/No credit. They are determined by the percentages on the table below

<i>Activity or assignment</i>	
<i>Participation</i>	10%
<i>Paper presentations</i>	20%
<i>Individual Project Idea</i>	10%
<i>Group Project Preliminary Report</i>	10%
<i>Group Project Final report</i>	30%
<i>Department Presentation</i>	20%
<i>Total</i>	100%

Presentations

There will be two preliminary presentations. The first will be a **paper presentation**, in which you get together in pairs and present on a scholarly paper on some aspect of ellipsis. The second will be an **individual project idea**, in which you pitch a final group project idea to the class.

Group project

The main goal of the class is for you to undertake a group research project. Halfway through the course you will form groups and embark on a research project that eventually will be presented to the Linguistics Department at the end of the semester.

In-class reports

Before the final presentation, there will be two opportunities to present your work in class. The first will be a **preliminary report** (around the 10th week of class) on the progress of your group project. The second will be a **final class report** (in the 13th week of class) to the entire class; this will double as a practice presentation to your presentation to the Department.

Final presentation to the department

Each group will make a final poster presentation of their work to the Linguistics Department at an end-of-semester event on **Friday, December 10th**.

Participation

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. There is no penalty for missing up to two class meetings. Each additional missed class will result in a deduction of half the participation grade. A student with four or more absences without documented justification will get a zero for the participation portion of the grade.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Late Work:

Late work may be accepted at the instructor's discretion. If you are unable to make a deadline, please contact me as soon as you can, and we can work out an arrangement.

Coursework Difficulties:

Please discuss any issues that you are having in completing the coursework on time with me. I am available to talk this over with you by appointment.

Incomplete Policy:

If you are unable to complete the coursework during the semester due to some catastrophic issue, you must contact me immediately to discuss your alternatives.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

Our purpose in the classroom is to seek the truth; this work requires trust and honesty between teacher and student. If we are not honest about what we know and do not know, our learning will always be impaired. Because our teaching and learning depends on this honest communication, we expect all students to understand what plagiarism is and why it is unacceptable.

Any student considering plagiarism should recognize the consequences and consider alternatives. Students uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism may request help from faculty or from appropriate University services. For information on using sources in writing, see the Identifying and Avoiding Academic Dishonesty section of the [Rutgers Academic Integrity](#) web site:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are required to adhere to the [University Student Code of Conduct](#) delineated in the Rutgers Student Affairs website [Student Conduct](#) page:

<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/university-code-of-student-conduct/#1495568095620-2f5ce77d-17dd>

ACCOMMODATIONS

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>).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Services:

- For academic support visit Rutgers Academics Student Support at <https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support>
- Any student can obtain tutoring and other help at the [Learning Centers](#) on each campus. Check the website at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>
- For coaching help with writing skills and assignments visit the [Writing Coaching](#) webpage at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/student-services/writing-coaching>
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the [Rutgers Libraries](#) website at <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Student Health Services:

[Rutgers Student Health Services](#) is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff. Services are available at several locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information visit: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>

Veteran Services:

Rutgers is proud to support veterans. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, please visit the [Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services](#) website for more information: <https://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

TOPICS SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
0	1/19	Course Intro	No Monday Class
1	1/23; 1/26	Verb Phrase Ellipsis	
2	1/30; 2/2	Sluicing and clausal ellipsis	Pick paper to present
3	2/6; 2/9	Ellipsis in and of NPs	
4	2/13; 2/16	Paper reports	
5	2/20; 2/23	Discuss project ideas	
6	2/27; 3/2	Skills workshop	
7	3/6; 3/9	Project Pitches	
Spring Break (3/11-3/19)			
8	3/20; 3/23	Finalizing Project Topics	
9	3/27; 3/30	Work on Group Research	
10	4/3; 4/6	Preliminary Reports	
11	4/10; 4/13	Tips for posters and presenting	
12	4/17; 4/20	In-class presentations	
13	4/24; 4/27	Department Presentations	Department presentations take place the 27th at the Red Lion Lounge. Posters must be completed and emailed for printing by the 24th.