

Advanced Undergraduate Seminar

01:615:497:01

Fall 2021

Course format: Fully in person
Course meeting: Tues & Fri, 9:00-10:20 am
Tillet Hall 116
Course website: canvas.rutgers.edu (01:615:497:01 ADV UNDERGRAD SEMINAR)
Instructor: Adam Jardine
Email: adam.jardine@rutgers.edu
Virtual office: [Link to Zoom office](#)
Actual office: Linguistics Department (18 Seminary Pl), Rm 205A
Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm, on Zoom (from my office)

Prerequisites

Being a senior and 615:201 and (615:305 or 615:315 or 615:325).

About this course

The goal of this course is for you to produce your own original research in linguistics. To do this, we will be engaging in a research topic in the primary linguistics literature.

The topic for this semester is **learning**. Theoretical and empirical issues in language acquisition—and its comparison to learning in other domains in humans, animals, and machines—are central to the scientific study of language. In this course we will discuss what ‘learning’ is, how it relates to first (and second) language acquisition, and theories of how linguistic structures are acquired in phonology, syntax, and semantics.

Course learning goals

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.

- work in teams to present their findings in a structured format.
- respond to questions and comments about 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.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted as pdf files on Canvas, under the `Resources` heading, in the `Readings` folder.

Evaluation and required work

The final grades for this course are Pass/No Credit. An overview of the coursework and percentage-wise breakdown is given below.

Participation	10%
Paper presentation (pairs)	20%
Individual project idea	10%
Group project:	
Preliminary report	10%
Final report	30%
Department presentation	20%

Some more details on each type of coursework follow.

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 learn-

ing. 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.

Schedule

A schedule is given in Table 1. This schedule is **tentative** and subject to change; for updates, **check the schedule on Canvas**.

Policy on late assignments

Any unexcused late work will **get an automatic 15% reduction**; work **more than 24 hours late will not be accepted for credit**.

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
0	9/3	Syllabus, course introduction	No Tues. class
1	9/7, 9/10	Learning and linguistic theory	
2	9/14, 9/17	Learning phonology	
3	9/21, 9/24	Learning syntax	
4	9/28, 10/1	Paper reports	
5	10/5, 10/8	Discussing topic ideas	
6	10/12, 10/15	Technical skills workshop	
7	10/19, 10/22	Project pitches	
8	10/26, 10/29	Finalizing groups and projects	
9	11/2, 11/5	Work on group research	
10	11/9, 11/12	Preliminary reports	
11	11/16, 11/19	Work on group research	
12	11/23	Tips on presentation	No Fri. class
13	11/30, 12/3	Presentations to class	
14	12/7, 12/10	Presentations to Department	

Table 1: Tentative class schedule

Policy on attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes as long as they are in good health. However, **if you have been told to quarantine or are showing symptoms of a transmittable disease, please stay home.** Please use the University absence reporting website (sims.rutgers.edu) to indicate the date and reason for necessary absences (an email is automatically sent to me). This includes absences for religious observances, health issues, and university activities.

If you must miss class for a period longer than one week, please contact the Dean of Students for assistance in verifying the circumstances of the absence and discussing any necessary accommodations for completing your coursework.

Mask policy

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, masks must be worn by all persons on campus when in the presence of others (within six feet) and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks must be worn during class meetings; **any student not properly wearing a mask will be asked to leave.**

Masks should conform to [CDC guidelines](#) and should completely **cover the nose and mouth.**

Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app.

Academic integrity

It is unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own. Please review the Academic Integrity policy: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/academic-integrity-policy/>. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating.

All students will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge on every major exam, assign-

ment, or other assessment as follows: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment, paper, quiz, etc.).”

Getting Help

Contacting me

I am here to help! Please get in touch whenever you have questions or concerns. If you have short questions, I can answer them after class or during office hours. In general you may stop by my office hours unannounced, but if you have a longer questions please let me know—we might want to schedule another time. (Note that this semester office hours will be held on Zoom, but I will be in my office if you would like to stop by).

I generally respond to email fairly quickly. However, **do not wait to the last minute** to ask about anything time-sensitive (assignments, etc.). I have a busy schedule and I tend not to check my email after 9pm. That said, I will try my best to get back to you within 2 business days.

Technical Help

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

For any issues you have with Canvas or other apps provided by Rutgers, contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at it.rutgers.edu/help-support/.

Disability Services

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: 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 on the ODS web site at: ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

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. Call (848) 932-7884 or visit rhscaps.rutgers.edu.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

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

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space. Call 732-247-5555 or visit scarletlisteners.com.

Just In Case Web App

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. Visit codu.co/cee05e.

Intellectual Property Rights

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university's Academic Integrity Policy. Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so.

(Last updated August 25, 2021)