

# Introduction to Linguistic Theory

Linguistics 201, Rutgers University, Fall 2022

Time: **Mondays & Thursdays 10:20am–11:40am**

## Monday Lecture

- Course Head: **Dorothy Ahn** ([dorothy.ahn@rutgers.edu](mailto:dorothy.ahn@rutgers.edu))  
Office Hours: Mondays 2:00pm–3:00pm (sign up on [Calendly](#))
- Location: Academic Building (AB) 1180

## Thursday Sections

- Section 01: **Jiaxing Yu** (OH: F 2:00pm-3:00pm; in-person/zoom; appointment required.)  
Location: Hardenbergh Hall (HH) A4
- Section 02: **J-P Doherty** (OH: R 12:00pm-1:00pm; in-person/zoom; appointment optional)  
Location: Graduate School of Education (ED) 025B
- Section 03: **G rard Avelino** (OH: M 1:00pm-2:00pm; in-person; appointment optional)  
Location: Murray Hall (MU) 114
- Section 04: **Chaoyi Chen** (OH: F 2:00pm-3:00pm; zoom; appointment optional)  
Location: Voorhees Hall (VH) 104

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## 1 Course Description

Linguistics is the scientific study of the human language capacity, which allows us to use language to communicate, organize our thoughts, and talk about things that are not present in the ‘here’ and ‘now’. This course is an introduction to the study of linguistics and contemporary linguistic theory.

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 meanings of words compose to form propositions), phonetics (the study of “speech sounds”) and phonology (the study of linguistic “sound” patterns) (note that we can also study the phonetics and phonology of signed languages!).

### 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 be able to 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 who complete the core courses in Linguistics will demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology, semantics and pragmatics and apply linguistic theory in these areas. They will be able to investigate and analyze linguistic data; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains of linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics to new topics; and access current research in the field.

This course has been approved as a Core Curriculum Course and satisfies the following 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 the learning goals of the Core Curriculum.

## Readings

All required readings will be posted as pdf files on Canvas, and will come from the following sources. You do not need to buy a textbook for this course.

- Anderson, C. (2018). Essentials of Linguistics. <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics/>
- Carnie, A. (2007). Syntax: A generative introduction (2nd ed.). Blackwell Publishing.
- Department of Linguistics. (2011). Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics (11th ed.). The Ohio State University Press.
- Griffiths, P., Cummins, C. (2017). An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics. Edinburgh University Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1g09x36>
- Hayes, B., Curtiss, S., Szabolcsi, A., Stowell, T., Stabler, E., Sportiche, D., Koopman, H., Keating, P., Munro, P., Hyams, N., Steriade, D. (2000). Linguistics: An introduction to Linguistic Theory (V. Fromkin, Ed.). Blackwell Publishing.
- O'Grady, W., Dobrovolsky, M., and Arnoff, M. (Eds.), Contemporary linguistics: An introduction (3rd ed.). St. Martin's Press.

## 2 Requirements

**Attendance & Participation** 10% You will be graded based on your overall level of participation in class. Participation includes: answering questions raised in class, asking questions, participating in in-class exercises.

### Absences

- University policy excuses absences due to religious observance or participation in Rutgers-approved activities, and permits students to make up work missed for these circumstances. **You must notify me and your section instructor in advance if this applies to you.**

- If you anticipate that you will be absent for whatever reason, particularly religious or medical reasons or for an emergency, you must notify me in writing as soon as possible AND report your absence via this link <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>.
- If your absence is not excused prior to class, you will receive a zero on any in-class assessment or exam for which you are absent.

**Assignments** 50% Weekly assignments will be posted on the Canvas site a week before they are due. Please type up your work and submit a pdf via Canvas.

- **Late assignments will NOT be accepted, but the lowest 2 assignment scores will be dropped and will not count towards your final grade**
- **Extra Credit:** Up to 2% of extra credit can be earned by participating in research studies. Your name is automatically added to the online experiment system, [SONA](#), and you will be notified via email when a new study is available.

## Grading

### Grading breakdown

6 out of 8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	50%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Participation	10%

### Letter grades

A	≥90%
B+	85–89.9%
B	80–84.9%
C+	75–79.9%
C	70–74.9%
D	60–69.9%
F	≤59.9%

## 3 Other specifics

**Academic integrity** Students may not collaborate on answering questions in homework assignments or exams; homework assignments and exams must be done independently.

It's unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own. Take a moment to review the university's Academic Integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

**Students with disabilities** 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](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.

**Respect for diversity:** It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. I intend to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, veteran status, citizenship status, nationality and other diverse identities. Coercive, intimidating, harassing, abusive, derogatory or prejudicial actions or speech will not be accepted in this class. Please don't hesitate to let me know of any concerns you might have, or ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

## 4 Weekly schedule

\*The course website supersedes the tentative schedule outlined in this document.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
1	9/8	Introductions		
2	9/12 9/15	Linguistics	Anderson ch.1	
3	9/19 9/22	Languages		
4	9/26 9/29	Morphology I	Morphology chapter	#1
5	10/3 10/6	Morphology II		#2
6	10/10 10/13	Syntax I	Carnie ch.2	#3
7	10/17 10/20	Syntax II	Carnie ch.3	#4
8	10/24 10/27	Review		
9	10/31 11/3	Semantics I	Fromkin et al. ch.7	#5
10	11/7 11/10	Semantics II	Fromkin et al. ch.8	#6
11	11/14 11/17	Pragmatics	Griffiths Cummins ch.8	
12	11/21 11/22	Phonetics	O'Grady ch.2	#7
13	11/28 12/1	Phonology I	O'Grady ch.3	#8
14	12/5 12/8	Phonology II		
15	12/12	Review		

**Final Exam:** Thursday, 12/22 8:00am – 11:00am