

Introduction to Linguistic Theory

01:615:201, Honors Fall 2022

Lecture Time	Tuesdays & Fridays, 8:30am–9:50am
Lecture Location	Murray Hall, room 112
Course Website	Canvas
Instructor	Dr. Carly Dickerson
E-mail	carly.dickerson@rutgers.edu
Office	room 225, 1 Spring Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Support Hours	Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm (or by appointment: www.calendly.com/ling201)

About the 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. Linguists use mathematical systems (often called ‘formal systems’) to develop precise theories that help us understand the incredibly rich cognitive processes that allow us to use language to communicate with each other, conduct an internal monologue, and so much more.

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!).

Course learning goals

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

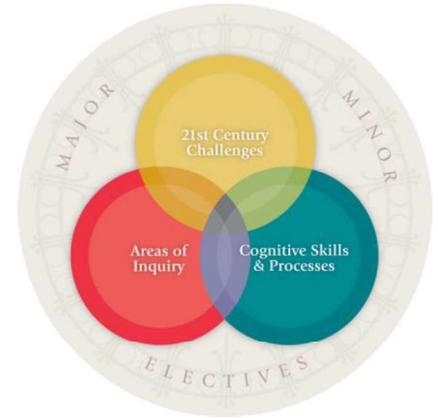
- Understand significant subfields within linguistics.
- Understand, create, and manipulate representations and analyses in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

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 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]



Readings

You do not need to buy a textbook for this course. Required readings are posted as links and/or pdf files on Canvas within the corresponding module (e.g., the Phonetics reading can be found in the Phonetics Module).

Grades

Your final grade for this course is based on a mix of homework assignments, midterm and final exams, and attendance/participation. The percentage-wise breakdown is below. You also have the opportunity to earn 2% extra credit by participating in experiments (more on that below).

6 out of 8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	40%
3 Honors assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	10%

Homework

Eight (8) homework assignments are distributed regularly throughout the semester via the course website on the Friday before it is due. The weeks during which homework assignments are due are indicated on the course schedule. Homework must be turned in no later than **Friday of that week** via the course website. Your lowest two assignments will be dropped from your final grade. Students must complete and submit their own original work for each assignment.

Homework assignments are used to gauge how well each student is absorbing the material. The assignments may at times seem difficult. If you find yourself struggling with an assignment, please contact your instructor or attend office hours.

Honors Assignments

Three (3) additional honors assignment will be due throughout the semester based on additional readings/media assigned in class. Students must work on these assignments individually. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage students to think about how what we are learning about language in the class can have wider implications out in the real world. Each assignment is made available at least 2 weeks before the due date.

Exams

There are two (2) exams given throughout the semester: one midterm and one final. The midterm is given **during our regularly scheduled class time** in the same lecture hall. You will have all class period to complete the midterm. The final is scheduled by the university for **December 20, 2022 from 8am until 11am**. The final is

not cumulative. The midterm and final will be the same length and will consist of questions based on data sets, short answer and fill in the blank/multiple choice questions.

Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking and answering questions, completing in class work and contributing to ongoing discussions. Participation grades are determined by the rubric below.

Level of Participation	Description	Points
Excellent	Student participates (asks questions, answers questions, contributes to discussion) multiple times each class.	10
Good	Student participates at least once per class.	8
Average	Student participates on a consistent basis, but not every class.	6
Below Average	Student rarely participates.	3
Poor	Student never participates.	0

Frequent and unexcused absences will likely make it difficult for you to succeed in the course. If you need to miss a class, use the University absence reporting website (sims.rutgers.edu/ssra) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Given the circumstances, please stay home if you are feeling ill. All assignments and in class work can be made up. Health and safety is more important than attending class.

Extra Credit

Some faculty and graduate students in the Department of Linguistics do experimental research on language. This research depends on the participation of undergraduate participants. You have the option of **participating in Linguistics experiments during the semester.**

- Each experiment usually takes between 20 and 45 minutes.
- Experiments are offered through the Linguistics department experiment management system (sona): <http://rutgerslinguistics.sona-systems.com/>. Towards the beginning of the semester, your name and email will be added to the experiment system. You will be issued an anonymous id to participate in experiments through this system. Once Linguistics experiments are posted, you can sign up online. (Note that this system is different from the psychology pool, and you should not use a psychology ID to log in to the system.)
- Any student enrolled in a Linguistics undergraduate course is eligible to participate in Linguistics experiments, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language status, or impairments, disorders, or disabilities (as long as their instructor provides the opportunity). You cannot be denied participation for any of these reasons.

You have the right to not participate in experiments to earn extra credit. You may speak with me about **possible research alternatives**, such as reading a pre-approved scholarly article in linguistics and writing a 2-page paper summarizing it.

Student Support Hours

Every Tuesday from 10am until noon, I will be available in my office for student support hours. You are highly encouraged to drop in during this time. I reserve this time specifically for this purpose! We can go over any material that you are struggling with, discuss linguistics topics that interest you, or just talk about whatever you like. I will also have my Zoom room open for a virtual drop in during this time. If you are unable to come during these dedicated support hours, you can schedule a time to meet with me via Zoom, using this scheduling site: calendly.com/ling201

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Please review the Rutgers academic integrity policy: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu.

You are expected to complete assignments on your own and to submit your own work. Collaborative work with classmates outside of the classroom must be cleared with your instructor first. If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please discuss it with your instructor.

Student Services at Rutgers

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: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Mental Health Services

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other, and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Rutgers University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. Counseling services are offered through Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS), our University mental health support service. They develop an individualized action plan for each student based on your unique needs and the range of resources available at CAPS, within the University, and in the surrounding community. Services include crisis intervention, individual therapy, group therapy, a variety of workshops, alcohol and other drug assistance programs, and psychiatric care (medication management). You can contact CAPS by visiting health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/ or by calling 848-932-7884. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Sexual Misconduct/Relationship Violence

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at nbttitleix.rutgers.edu or by contacting the Office of Student Affairs Compliance & Title IX, at NBTtitleIX@echo.rutgers.edu or 848-932-8200. Additionally, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) has a trained advocate on call 24/7 at 848-932-1181 who can give you information on your options so you can make an informed decision. The website is www.vpva.rutgers.edu. Your options may include: trauma-informed counseling, reporting the incident, changing your living situation and/or class schedule, medical & legal assistance. You have the option to report to the police and/or the University. You can report online, call directly, or a VPVA advocate can help.

Mask Policy

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, in all indoor teaching spaces, libraries, and clinical settings. Compliance is mandatory. Masks must be worn during class meetings; any student not wearing a mask will be asked to leave. Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth. For the most up-to-date policies at Rutgers regarding COVID-19, visit coronavirus.rutgers.edu.

Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Dates	Tuesday Class	Friday Class	Friday work due:
1	Sept. 6 – Sept. 9	Introduction	Phonetics I	
2	Sept. 13 – Sept. 16	Phonetics II	Phonetics III	Homework 1
3	Sept. 20 – Sept. 23	Phonetics IV	Phonology I	Honors Assignment 1
4	Sept. 27 – Sept. 30	Phonology II	Phonology III	Homework 2
5	Oct. 4 – Oct. 7	Phonology IV	Phonology V	Homework 3
6	Oct. 11 – Oct. 14	Midterm prep	MIDTERM	
7	Oct. 18 – Oct. 21	Midterm review	Morphology I	Honors Assignment 2
8	Oct. 25 – Oct. 28	Morphology I	Morphology III	Homework 4
9	Nov. 1 – Nov. 4	Morphology IV	Syntax I	
10	Nov. 8 – Nov. 11	Syntax II	Syntax III	Homework 5
11	Nov. 15 – Nov. 18	Syntax IV	Semantics I	Honors Assignment 3
12	Nov. 22 – Nov. 25	<i>NO CLASS</i>	<i>WED., NOV. 23rd</i> Semantics II	<i>DUE WED., NOV. 23rd</i> Homework 6
13	Nov. 29 – Dec. 2	Semantics III	Pragmatics I	Homework 7
14	Dec. 6 – Dec. 9	Pragmatics II	Pragmatics III	Homework 8
15	Dec. 13 – Dec. 16	Final prep	<i>NO CLASS</i>	
FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 20th 8am – 11am				

List of Required Readings (all available on our Canvas site)

Topic	Assigned reading
Introduction	Chapter 1 from <i>Essentials of Linguistics</i> by Catherine Anderson: Anderson, C. (2018). <i>Essentials of Linguistics</i> . https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics/
Phonetics	Chapter 2 from <i>Contemporary Linguistics</i> : O'Grady, W., Dobrovolsky, M., and Arnoff, M. (Eds.), <i>Contemporary linguistics: An introduction</i> (3 rd ed.). St. Martin's Press.
Phonology	Chapter 3 from <i>Contemporary Linguistics</i> : O'Grady, W., Dobrovolsky, M., and Arnoff, M. (Eds.), <i>Contemporary linguistics: An introduction</i> (3 rd ed.). St. Martin's Press.
Morphology	Chapter 4 from <i>Language Files</i> : Department of Linguistics. (2011). <i>Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics</i> (11th ed.). The Ohio State University Press.
Syntax	Chapters 2 & 3 from <i>Syntax: A Generative Introduction, Third Edition</i> by Andrew Carnie: Carnie, A. (2007). <i>Syntax: A generative introduction</i> (2 nd ed.). Blackwell Publishing.
Semantics	Chapters 7 & 8 from <i>Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistic Theory</i> , edited by Victoria A. Fromkin
Pragmatics	Chapter 8 from <i>An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics, Second Edition</i> by Patrick Griffiths & Chris Cummins: Griffiths, P., & Cummins, C. (2017). <i>An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics</i> . Edinburgh University Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1g09x36