

Advanced Undergraduate Seminar: “Imperatives!”
Fall 2023

Prof. Mark Baker

Class time and place:

Monday-Thursday 10:20-11:40
Scott Hall, Room 202

Contact Information:

Room 203, 18 Seminary Place
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Student support hours: M-Th 12:00-1:30, and by appointment (in person or zoom)

Department Learning Goals:

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; and apply the techniques of linguistics to new topics. *Majors will access current research in the field and be able to communicate the findings and relevance of linguistic research to both an audience in the discipline and a lay audience.*

Course Learning Goals:

- Students will apply the tools of linguistic analysis from the core courses to a particular topic.
- Students will identify projects related to the topic of the course.
- Students will search a variety of resources for material relevant to their project.
- Students will work in teams to present their findings in a structured format.
- Students will communicate their findings both within the discipline and to a general audience.
- Students will respond to questions and comments about their project.

Textbook:

There is no textbook for this course. Readings will be available on the course’s Canvas site.

Evaluation:

There is no final exam for this course. You will have two homework assignments and one in-class quiz that you will do individually (Unit 1). You will make two presentations, one joint and one individual, while you search for a research topic (Unit 2). You will then work in teams of about four people to create a poster exploring some aspect of Imperatives. In that process you will make joint reports and a final presentation (Unit 3) where you will answer questions about your poster. Groups will present their posters to the linguistics department during the final class period, on December 11, 2023.

Grades: The grading format for this class is Pass/No credit
To pass the course, you must have a final score of at least 70%.

Test and Assignments: 20%

- 2 introductory assignments, 2.5 points each
- 1 test, 15 points

Presentations: 35%

- Language presentation (with one other person): 15%
- Issues/project pitch (by yourself): 10%
- Preliminary project report (with your group): 5%
- Final project report (with your group): 10%

Participation: 15%

There is no penalty for missing up to two class periods. After that, you lose 2.5 points per class period.)

Final results: 25%

- Abstract: 10%
- Poster: 15%

Weekly Course Schedule (tentative, subject to minor modifications):

Unit 1: Shared groundwork on imperatives

Week 1: Sept 7 General intro to class, participants, topic

Week 2: Sept 11, 14 Syntax of Imperatives: English

Week 3: Sept 18, 21 Imperatives in other languages

Week 4: Sept 25, 28 Semantics of imperatives

Week 5: Oct 2, 5 Other imperative issues: Pragmatics, Prosody... (+picking languages)

Unit 2: Exploring the topic of imperatives yourselves

Week 6: Oct 9, 12 In class test (10/9); Introduction to possible topics (10/12)

Week 7: Oct 16, 19 Language reports and project pitches

Week 8: Oct 23, 26 Language reports and project pitches

Week 9: Oct 30, 1 Language reports and project pitches; + *CHOOSING TEAMS* (Nov 1)

Unit 3: Researching a topic on imperatives

Week 10: Nov 6, 9 Work on projects (+what is a poster, a poster presentation?)

Week 11: Nov 13, 16 Develop projects (+ proper citation of sources)

Week 12: Nov 20, 21 First presentations (Note: class meets Monday-Tuesday this week)

Week 13: Nov 27, 30 Develop projects, submit drafts of abstracts

Week 14: Dec 4, 7 Final presentations of poster to the class

Week 15: Dec 11 *Present your posters and abstracts to the department*

Policy on attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes (see note for the participation grade). After two absences, points will be deducted at 2.5 points per class, unless there is a documented valid reason for it.

Academic integrity:

It is unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own. Take a moment to review the university's Academic Integrity policy: at

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy> All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students may collaborate only on those projects that explicitly involve team work, not on homework assignments and/or exams that are required to be done independently.

Policy on electronic devices:

If you're on an electronic device in class, it needs to be for a reason related to class (note-taking, in-class exercises or participation, etc.). No surfing, social media, or texting, please.

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 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 website at: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

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 professionals 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) 9327884 or visit <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu>. 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

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. 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

Scarlet Listeners: Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space. Call 732- 247-5555 or visit <http://www.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 <http://codu.co/cee05e>