

Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201)

Fall 2023

Lecture Time	Wed 3:50-5:10pm
Lecture Location	AB-1180
Course Website	Canvas
Instructor	Troy Messick
E-mail	troy.messick@rutgers.edu
Office	18 Seminary Place Room 302
Office Hours	Thursday 10am-noon (or by appointment)
Recitation Time	Mon 3:50-5:10pm



Sec	Instructor	Location	E-mail	Office Hours 18 Seminary-B
1	Jiayuan Chen	SC-104	jiayuan.c@rutgers.edu	Tues 3:00-4:00pm
2	Hyunjung Joo	ED-024B	hyunjung.joo@rutgers.edu	Wed 1:00-2:00pm
3	Marjorie Leduc	FH-B3	ml1622@linguistics.rutgers.edu	Mon noon-1:00pm
4	Ying Zhang	MU-211	ying.z@rutgers.edu	Tues 2:30-3:30pm

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, morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology.

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 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 (both in lecture and recitation). The percentage-wise breakdown is below. You also have the opportunity to earn 2% extra credit by participating in experiments (more on that below)

I. 8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	60%
II. Midterm	15%
III. Final	15%
IV. 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 TA or the instructor or attend office hours.

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 will be during the scheduled time for finals given out by the university and it 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 us. Please stay home if you are feeling ill. All assignments and in class work can be made up.

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 his/her 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.

Academic Integrity

Please review the university's academic integrity policy: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. It's unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own.

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

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

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.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/

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.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

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

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com>/<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlistenersh>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Dates	Monday Recitation	Wednesday Lecture	Friday Homework
1	Sep 6	No class	Introduction	
2	Sep 11-15	Introduction	Phonetics I	
3	Sep 18-22	Review Phonetics	Phonology I	HW 1 due
4	Sep 25-29	Review Phonology	Phonology II	HW 2 due
5	Oct 2-6	Practice Phonology	Morphology I	HW 3 due
6	Oct 9-13	Review Morphology	Morphology II	HW 4 due
7	Oct 16-20	Review For Midterm	Midterm	
8	Oct 23-27	Go over Midterm	Syntax I	
9	Oct 30-Nov 3	Review Syntax	Syntax II	
10	Nov 6-10	Practice Syntax	Semantics I	HW 5 due
11	Nov 13-17	Review Semantics	Semantics II	HW 6 due
12	Nov 20	Practice Semantics	Thanksgiving	
13	Nov 27-Dec 1	Catch Up	Pragmatics I	HW 7 due
14	Dec 4-8	Review Pragmatics	Pragmatics II	HW 8 due
15	Dec 11-13	Review for Final	Wrapping Up	

*****The final exam time is Monday December 18th from 4:00PM-7:00PM*****