Basic course information

Class time:	Monday and Wednesday, 3:50 – 5:10 p.m.
Class location:	SC-115 (Scott Hall)
Course website:	Canvas site (https://canvas.rutgers.edu/)

Instructor:	Ying Zhang
Email:	ying.z@rutgers.edu (I will respond by the Friday of the week you email me.)
Office:	18 Seminary Place, Room 003 (basement of the Linguistics Building)
Office hours:	Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., or by appointment

1 Course description

1.1 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!).

1.2 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.
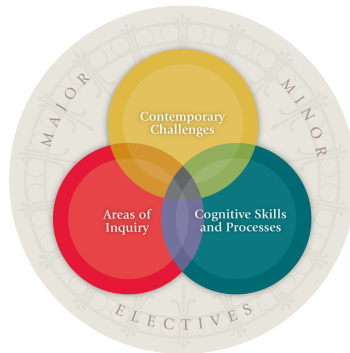
Department learning goals met by this course:

- 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]

1.3   Readings

You do <u>not</u> 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).

2   Grades

Grade percentage breakdown:

8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	60%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Participation	10%

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

Grade	Point Range	Definition	Numerical Equivalent
A	89.5 – 100	Outstanding	4.0
B+	84.5-89.49		3.5
B	79.5-84.49	Good	3.0
C+	74.5-79.49		2.5
C	69.5-74.49	Satisfactory	2.0
D	59.5-69.49	Poor	1.0
F	0-59.49	Failing	0.0

2.1   Homework

There will be in total 8 homework assignments. Each assignment will be made available on Canvas one week before it is due. You can find the exact due date of each assignment in the course schedule (at the end of this syllabus). Please note that I cannot accept late assignments after we have gone over the answers in class, unless you have the appropriate accommodations from the Office of Disability Services. If you are having trouble with an assignment, please feel free to reach out and I will be more than happy to help. Your lowest 2 assignments will be automatically dropped.

2.2   Attendance and Participation

Participation grades are determined by both attendance and participation of in-class activities.
Attendance: if you show up in class and pick up your name card, you will be marked 'present' for that class. If you cannot make it to class for any reason, please be sure to either let me know via a quick email (you don't have to tell me why you will be absent) or self-report your absence on https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ within a reasonable amount of time. All reported absences will be excused; you are not required to show me doctor's notes as proof.
Participation of in-class activities: doing any one of the following activities will count as 'participating': asking or answering questions, completing in-class exercises, or contributing to ongoing discussions.

Level	Description	Points
Excellent	Student has ≤ 2 unexcused absences & participates every class.	10
Good	Student has ≤ 2 unexcused absences & participates every other class.	8
Average	Student has ≥ 2 unexcused absences.	6
Below average	Student rarely attends class.	3
Poor	Student never attends class.	0

2.3   Exams

There are 2 exams in this course: the midterm and the final.
Midterm:

- Takes place during regular class hours and in our regular classroom.

- Consists of questions based on data sets, short answer and fill in the blank/multiple choice questions.

Final:

- Takes place on May 8, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. and in our regular classroom.

- Also consists of questions based on data sets, short answer and fill in the blank/multiple choice questions.

- The final is not cumulative.

2.4　Extra credit

There are two ways you can earn extra credits in this course: (3 credits maximal)

1. Participate in a linguistics experiment. Each experiment is counted for 1 credit.

   - Some faculty and graduate students in the Department of Linguistics conduct experimental research on human languages.
   - You have the option of participating in these linguistics experiments during the semester. Each experiment usually takes between 20 and 45 minutes. <u>You do not need any linguistic knowledge in order to participate; this is not a test.</u>
   - 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, and you should receive an email from 'Rutgers Linguistics SONA system Admin' in your Scartletmail inbox. 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.

2. Read a pre-approved scholarly article in linguistics and writing a 2-page paper summarizing it. Each response is counted as 1.5 credits.

   - This could be a good option if you don't wish to participate in linguistics experiments.
   - Please schedule a meeting with me in advance to decide on the paper if you want to earn extra credits this way.

3　Academic integrity

Please review the university's academic integrity policy: academicintegrity.rutgers.edu (see also the Libraries' website on Copyright for Students: https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/research-tools-and-services/copyright-guidance/copyright-students). It's unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own.

Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

- Cheating
- Plagiarism

- Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work

- Failure to cite sources correctly

- Fabrication

- Using another person's ideas or words without attribution, including re-using a previous assignment Unauthorized collaboration

- Sabotaging another student's work

If you are ever in doubt, consult your instructor.

You are entirely free to partner with someone else to work on your assignments, but be sure to write on the top of your assignment who you worked with.

4 Student Services at Rutgers

4.1 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; see 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/getting-registered.

4.2 Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

Phone: (848) 932-7884
Address: 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Website: 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.

4.3 Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

Phone: (848) 932-1181
Address: 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Website: 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.

4.4   Other useful links

A list of Rutgers resources that provide support for your academic success and mental wellness:

- Student Success Essentials: https://success.rutgers.edu

- Student Support Services: https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support

- The Learning Centers: https://rlc.rutgers.edu/

- Rutgers Libraries: https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/

- Bias Incident Reporting: https://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu/bias-incident-reporting

- Dean of Students – Student Support Office: https://success.rutgers.edu/resource/dean-students-student-support-office

- Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services: https://veterans.rutgers.edu

- Student Health Services: http://health.rutgers.edu/

- UWill (free & immediate teletherapy): http://health.rutgers.edu/uwill/

- Basic Needs Assistance (food, housing, & other essentials): https://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/basic-needs

- Rutgers Student Food Pantry: https://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food-pantry

5   Schedule (tentative)

Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday	Friday Homework
1	Jan 15	No class	Introduction	
2	Jan 22-26	Morphology I	Morphology I	
3	Jan 29- Feb 2	Morphology II	Morphology II	HW 1 due
4	Feb 5-9	Syntax I	Syntax I	HW2 due
5	Feb 12-16	Syntax II	Syntax II	HW3 due
6	Feb 19-23	Semantics I	Semantics I	HW4 due
7	Feb 26-Mar 1	Semantics II	Semantics II	HW5 due
8	Mar 4-8	Review for midterm	Midterm	
9	Mar 11-15	Spring break		
10	Mar 18-22	Go over midterm	Pragmatics I	
11	Mar 25-29	Pragmatics I	Pragmatics II	
12	Apr 1-5	Phonetics I	Phonetics II	HW6 due
13	Apr 8-12	Phonology I	Phonology I	HW7 due
14	Apr 15-19	Phonology II	Phonology II	HW8 due
15	Apr 22-26	Wrapping	Review for final	
16	Apr 29	In-class office hour		

The final exam time is **May 8th from 12:00PM to 3:00PM**.