

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 201 — Fall 2017

MWF 12:35–13:25, RPHYS 112

Instructors

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<i>office hours</i>	Mon 1:30-2:30 (til 10/17)	Tue 11am-12pm (from 10/17)

Teaching assistants

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Francesco Gentile	—	francesco.gentile@mail.mcgill.ca
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Office hours: 10-11am 1085 Dr. Penfield, 117 (starting 9/20).

Content of the course

This course is an introduction to linguistic theory and analysis. Topics covered include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The goal is to familiarize students with current tools of linguistic analysis. Students will be required to display an understanding of these tools by applying them to data from different languages. The main component of evaluation will be linguistic problem solving through assignments, quizzes and exams.

Requirements and evaluation

6 homework assignments	30% (5% each)
4 quizzes	12% (3% each)
1 midterm exam	20%
1 final exam	38%

Readings

- **Coursepack** (available at McGill bookstore and on reserve at Redpath Library), contains:
 - Mark Baker *The Atoms of Language*, ch 1
 - O’Grady & Archibald *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction* (CLA), chs 1–5, 7
 - Andrew Carnie *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, chs 1–3; 6
 - John Saeed *Semantics*, chs 4, 7.7

All readings from the O’Grady & Archibald, Carnie and Saeed texts are required. The Baker reading is optional.

Course rules and procedures

Conferences

Starting in Week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA. Conferences will be held at different times on Fridays as follows:

	Time	Location	TA
002	F 12:35–1:25	PE1085 002	Liz Smeets
003	F 11:35–12:25	PE1085 002	Liz Smeets
004	F 12:35–1:25	SH688 223	Francesco Gentile
005	F 11:35–12:25	EDUC 629	Francesco Gentile
006	F 12:35–1:25	RPHYS 112	Jiaer Tao
007	F 8:35–9:25	PE1085 002	Jiaer Tao

To determine which conference you will attend, you must sign up on Minerva. Once you have signed up for one section, you cannot switch to another. An effort will be made to divide the students evenly between sections. This means that once a section has a certain number of students, no more students will be accepted into that section.

You are responsible for the material covered in conferences just as you are responsible for the material covered in lectures. If for some reason you cannot attend a conference or lecture, you should make sure that you get the relevant notes from a classmate.

Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held every week, starting in Week 3. The TAs will take turns covering the office hours so you will have a chance to meet with all TAs. Instructor office hours are held every week, starting in Week 2. Note that the location and time of office hours changes halfway through the course. If you are unable to meet with TAs or professors during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments and generally these can be arranged within one week of the request.

Tutors

If you feel that you need more individual attention, we encourage you to contact either the Student Tutorial Service (398-6011) or SLUM (the undergraduate linguistics student association: slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca). It is understood that tutors help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

Electronic logistics

Course website: The course site is on myCourses. Make sure you have access. Students often find the online discussions forums on myCourses helpful, e.g. for obtaining a faster response to questions than via email. Assignments will be submitted and graded via myCourses. Quizzes will be conducted via myCourses.

Emails: Please include “LING 201” in the subject line of emails to course staff. You can expect TAs and professors to respond to your e-mail questions and comments. However, please do not expect instant responses. We will try to respond within two working days.

Polling/SRS: We will be using the Polling@McGill system (a.k.a. Student Response System/SRS) to conduct in-class exercises to which students respond from their personal device: smartphone, laptop, or tablet.

You are strongly encouraged to participate in these polls if you have such a personal device. Participation in Polling@McGill does not count towards your course grade. See 'Getting Started for Students' at www.mcgill.ca/polling to learn how to register your account. More information will be given in lectures. To maintain a safe and respectful classroom environment, please ensure that any polling responses you submit are appropriate and relevant to the question asked. Please note that unless the poll is labelled as anonymous, your responses are identifiable to the instructor. Please see the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Homework assignments

Problem sets may be done in groups (max 3 students). One member of the group should submit **a single assignment** with all group members names on it. The other members should submit a document with just the group names. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade for the assignment. You are not required to work in a group.

All problem sets for the first half of the class must be submitted electronically on myCourses, and will be due Wednesdays at 11:59pm (roughly one week after they are distributed). After the midterm you will receive instructions on how to submit problem sets for the second half of the class. Assignments will not be accepted late unless you have a documented medical excuse and we have been notified within 24 hours of when the assignment was due.

Quizzes

Short quizzes will be available on MyCourses. They will be open for a 24 hour period and once started must be finished within 2 hours. These are designed to help you keep up with the material and to check your understanding.

Midterm exam

The midterm exam is scheduled for **Thursday, 10/19** from 18:05–19:55. It will take place in **ADAMS AUD**. A make-up midterm will be arranged only for students who have a conflict with the midterm as scheduled. To be eligible, students must be registered in a conflicting course with a higher priority than LING 201.

Late assignments, and missed quizzes, and exams

No make-up assignments, quizzes or midterm exam will be given to anyone who does not have a certified medical excuse. We must be notified within 24 hours of a missed assignment, quiz or midterm exam by email. You are responsible for scheduling make-ups with the instructor as soon as possible and within a week. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 3.7, General University Information and Regulations. (See <http://www.mcgill.ca/student-records/exam/regulations> for more information on final and deferred exams.)

Grading

Any problem with grading on a problem set, quiz, or exam must be reported within one week of when the problem set, quiz, or exam was returned. No answer to any graded material will be re-assessed unless the answer was originally written in ink and it has not been written over.

McGill Policy Statements

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

As the instructors of this course we endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with us and the Office for Students with Disabilities (514-398-6009, <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd>).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Timeline

	Date		Topics (tentative)	Reading (may change)	Assignments
1	W	9/6	Intro & overview	Baker, CLA 1.1-1.3	
	F	9/8	Phonetics 1: transcription & sound	CLA 2.1–2.2	
2	M	9/11	Phonetics 2: articulation (consonants)	CLA 2.3–2.5	
	W	9/13	Phonetics 3: articulation (vowels)	CLA 2.6–2.7	
	F	9/15	Phonetics 4: production	CLA 2.9	
3	M	9/18	Phonology 1: phonemes	CLA 3.1	Quiz 1
	W	9/20	Phonology 2: syllables	CLA 3.2	
	F	9/22	<i>Conference 1: transcription</i>		
4	M	9/25	Phonology 3: rules	CLA 3.6	HW 1 due
	W	9/27	Morphology 1: morphemes	CLA 4.1	
	F	9/29	<i>Conference 2: phonology</i>		
5	M	10/2	Morphology 2: derivation	CLA 4.2–4.3	HW 2 due
	W	10/4	Morphology 3: inflection	CLA 4.4	
	F	10/6	<i>Conference 3: phonology</i>		
6	M	10/9	<i>Thanksgiving no class</i>		HW 3 due
	W	10/11	Morphology 4: building words		
	F	10/13	<i>Conference 4: morphology</i>		
7	M	10/16	Language change	CLA 7.1–7.2, 7.6	Quiz 2
	W	10/18	Review		
	TH	10/19	Midterm (18:05-19:55)		
	F	10/20	<i>No conference</i>		
8	M	10/23	Syntax 1: basics & categories	Carnie 1, 2–2.3; CLA 5.1.1	
	W	10/25	Syntax 2: constituency	Carnie 3	
	F	10/27	<i>Conference 5</i>		
9	M	10/30	Syntax 3: modification	Carnie 6.0–6.1	
	W	11/1	Syntax 4: X-bar theory	Carnie 6.2–6.4	
	F	11/3	<i>Conference 6</i>		
10	M	11/6	Syntax 5: adjuncts	Carnie 6.5–6.7	Quiz 3
	W	11/8	Syntax 6: sentences	CLA 5.1.3–5.2	
	F	11/10	<i>Conference 7</i>		
11	M	11/13	Syntax 7: movement	CLA 5.3	
	W	11/15	Syntax 8: more movement		
	F	11/17	<i>Conference 8</i>		
12	M	11/20	Semantics 1: basics & binding	Saeed 4	Quiz 4
	W	11/22	Sem 2: entail & presupposition		
	F	11/24	<i>Conference 9</i>		
13	M	11/27	Semantics 3: implicatures	Saeed 7.7	
	W	11/29	Principles & Parameters 1	CLA 5.4	
	F	12/1	<i>Conference 10</i>		
14	M	12/4	Principles & Parameters 2		
	W	12/6	TBD		
	Th	12/7	Review		