

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 201 — Fall 2018
MWF 10:35–11:25, Stuart Biology S1/4

Instructors

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<i>office hours</i>	Mondays 11:30–1pm (through 10/15)	Mondays 2:30–4pm (beginning 10/22)

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Office hours: Mondays 1–3 pm 1085 Dr. Penfield, 002 (beginning 9/17)

Content of the course

This course offers a general introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of human language. During the semester we will cover the major subfields of theoretical linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. In addition to being active areas of research, these also provide background for other subfields of linguistics taught in this course, which may vary from year to year and include topics such as sociolinguistics, historical linguistics and language change, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, cross-linguistic variation and language universals, and language acquisition.

Requirements and evaluation

6 problem sets	30% (5% each)
4 quizzes	12% (3% each)
1 midterm exam	29%
1 final exam	29%

Problem sets

Over the course of the semester, you will have 6 problem sets to turn in. These problem sets are due on MyCourses **typed in PDF format at 11:59pm** on the due date. You have one free late-pass which you may use to turn in one of your assignments 24 hours late; we do not need to know the reason, but in order to use your late pass, you must let your TA know you are using it by email. Once this pass has been used, late work cannot be accepted for a grade without a documented medical excuse and notification within 24 hours after the original due date.

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

Quizzes and Exams

- Four short quizzes will be available on MyCourses, to be completed outside of class on the specified date. More information will be provided in the lectures prior to each quiz to help you prepare for these.
- The midterm exam is scheduled for **Thursday October 18** from 6:05 to 7:55pm. It will take place in rooms **ENGMC 204, ENGMC 304, STBIO S1/3, and LEA 232**. 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.
- The final exam is scheduled by the Exams Office during the semester. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams.
- 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.

Textbook

Most readings will come from the textbook, available at McGill bookstore and on reserve at Redpath Library: O'Grady & Archibald *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction (Eighth Edition)*

Conferences and resources

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. To determine which conference you will attend, you must sign up on Minerva (more details to be announced). 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 different TAs. If you are unable to meet with TAs or professors during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments or seek tutoring.

Tutors

If you need additional help with course material, we encourage you to contact either Student Tutorial Services (www.mcgill.ca/tutoring/) or SLUM (slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca), the undergraduate linguistics association. Tutors can 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.

Email

This is a large class. Your TA should always be your first point of contact for general questions about the course or course material, and all email should be sent from your McGill email address. While we will endeavour to respond to your email within two business days, please ask yourself the following before sending an email:

- Is the information I need on the syllabus or in other course material?

- Does a classmate have this information? or could it be answered on the MyCourses discussion board?
- Can my question wait until lecture/conference/office hours?

Class policies and university regulations

Use of electronics

Laptops can be distracting to fellow students and instructors. We ask that you not use a laptop in class without explicit permission. Smaller electronics may be used for TurningPoint interactive polling, to be discussed.

Academic integrity

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/integrity for more information).

Right to submit in French

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.

Inclusivity

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.

Copyright

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Territory acknowledgement

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Timeline

	Date		Topics (tentative)	Reading (may change)	Assignments
1	W	9/5	Introduction		
	F	9/7	Phonetics 1	CLA 2	
2	M	9/10	Phonetics 2	CLA 2	<i>(PS 1 available)</i>
	W	9/12	Phonetics 3	CLA 2	
	F	9/14	Phonetics 4	CLA 2	
3	M	9/17	Phonology 1	CLA 3	PS 1 due Quiz 1
	W	9/19	Phonology 2	CLA 3	
	F	9/21	<i>Conference 1</i>		
4	M	9/24	Phonology 3	CLA 3	<i>(PS 2 available)</i>
	W	9/26	Phonology 4	CLA 3 & CLA 7-7.2.1	
	F	9/28	<i>Conference 2</i>		
5	M	10/1	NO CLASS: Quebec's General Election		PS 2 due Quiz 2
	W	10/3	Morphology 1	CLA 4	
	F	10/5	<i>Conference 3</i>		
6	M	10/8	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving		<i>(PS 3 available)</i>
	W	10/10	Morphology 2	CLA 4	
	F	10/12	<i>Conference 4</i>		
7	M	10/15	Morphology 3	CLA 4	PS 3 due
	W	10/17	Morphology 4	CLA 4 & CLA 7.2.2	
	T	10/18	Midterm exam		
8	M	10/22	Syntax 1: Categories	CLA 5–5.1	<i>PS4 available</i>
	W	10/24	Syntax 2: Phrase structure	CLA 5.1.2	
	F	10/26	<i>Conference 5</i>		
9	M	10/29	Syntax 3: Sentences	CLA 5.2	PS 4 due Quiz 3
	W	10/31	Syntax 4: Move	CLA 5.3	
	F	11/2	<i>Conference 6</i>		
10	M	11/5	Syntax 5: Variation	CLA 5.4	<i>PS 5 available</i>
	W	11/7	Syntactic classification	CLA 7.1; 7.2.3–7.2.4	
	F	11/9	<i>Conference 7</i>		
11	M	11/12	Semantics 1: Composition & binding	CLA 6.3	PS 5 due Quiz 4
	W	11/14	Semantics 2: pragmatics	CLA 6.4	
	F	11/16	<i>Conference 8</i>		
12	M	11/19	Aboriginal languages 1: Overview	CLA 9.1	<i>(PS 6 available)</i>
	W	11/21	Aboriginal languages 2: Linguistic features	CLA 9.2	
	F	11/23	<i>Conference 9</i>		
13	M	11/26	Language in social contexts	CLA 14–14.4	PS 6 due
	W	11/28	Language in social contexts	CLA 14.5–14.6	
	F	11/30	<i>Conference 10</i>		
14	M	12/3	TBA	TBA	
	T	12/4	Review		