



LING 410 – Structure of a Specific Language (CRN 20595)
Fall 2018 - TR 1:05 pm - 2:25 pm, FERR 476

1. General information

Instructor:	Natália Brambatti Guzzo
Office hours:	Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 am or by appointment
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2. Course Description

This course is an examination of the structure of a specific language. We will investigate aspects of the phonology and syntax of Portuguese within the theoretical framework of generative linguistics. The objective of the course is twofold: (i) to apply and refine analytical methods in linguistics based on phenomena from Portuguese, and (ii) to identify empirical generalizations that contribute to the understanding of generative theory.

3. Prerequisites

LING 330 (Phonetics), LING 331 (Phonology 1), and LING 371 (Syntax 1); or permission of instructor. Knowledge of Portuguese is not necessary.

4. Format

This course comprises lectures, discussion of data, team work and reading. Student participation is highly encouraged. Course materials (including readings) will be available on MyCourses. Slides will normally be posted on MyCourses after class.

5. Evaluation

2 quizzes	30% (15% each)
2 homework assignments	40% (20% each)
Final project	20% (15% paper + 5% presentation)
Participation	10%

5.1 Quizzes

The quizzes will be composed of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions, in addition to a few questions that require a short analysis. The quizzes will be done in class, and they should take no longer than 30 minutes. The quizzes should be written in pen (otherwise they cannot be considered for re-grading).

5.2 Assignments

Assignments can be done in groups (maximum 3 students), but each student must turn in his/her own assignments and **write them up individually**. Students **must** include in their assignments the name of the student(s) with whom they worked.

Assignments are due at 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Students must submit their assignments through MyCourses. Notify the instructor in advance if for some reason you will not be able to use MyCourses to turn in your assignment.

5.3 Final project

In groups of 2 or 3, students will select an issue of interest in Portuguese linguistics and propose an analysis that accounts for it. Your analysis will consist of a critical review of one or more articles that discuss the topic of your choice. You are allowed to include your own data in the analysis (i.e., you can consult native speakers or obtain data from an online database). You are also allowed to compare the Portuguese data with data from a different language, and to provide an analysis that accounts for the differences/similarities between the two languages. The analysis must be written up as a short paper (2-3 pages plus figures/trees/tableaus) and presented in class during the final week of classes. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor before writing up their papers. Further instructions will be posted on MyCourses by the end of September.

5.4 Late assignments and missed quizzes

Late assignments will not be accepted unless the student has a certified medical excuse. No make-up quizzes will be given to anyone who does not have a certified medical excuse.

6. 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).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant

et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/fr/fairplay).

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.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, 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.

6.1 Useful links

Office for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.mcgill.ca/osd/>

McGill Writing Centre: <https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>

Counselling Services: <https://www.mcgill.ca/counselling/>

International Student Services: <https://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/>

Student Health Service: <https://www.mcgill.ca/studenthealth/>

Office for Sexual Violence, Response, Support and Education: <https://www.mcgill.ca/osvrse/>

7. Readings

The following articles/book chapters are the required readings for this course:

B&L Brocardo, Maria Teresa and Célia Regina dos Santos Lopes. 2016. History and current setting. In W. Leo Wetzels, João Costa and Sergio Menuzzi (eds). *The Handbook of Portuguese Linguistics*, pp.1-14. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

C&E Cyrino, Sonia and M. Teresa Espinal. 2015. Bare nominals in Brazilian Portuguese: More on the DP/NP analysis. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 33:471-521.

C&L Cyrino, Sonia and Ruth Lopes. 2016. Null objects are ellipsis in Brazilian Portuguese. *The Linguistic Review*, 33(4):483-502.

F Ferreira, Marcelo. 2009. Null subjects and finite control in Brazilian Portuguese. In Jairo Nunes (ed). *Minimalist Essays on Brazilian Portuguese Syntax*, pp. 17-49. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

G Garcia, Guilherme D. 2017. Weight gradience and stress in Portuguese. *Phonology*, 34(1): 41-79.

M&N Martins, Ana Maria and Jairo Nunes. 2016. Passives and *se* constructions. In W. Leo Wetzels, João Costa and Sergio Menuzzi (eds). *The Handbook of Portuguese Linguistics*, pp.318-337. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

M&d'A Mateus, Maria Helena and Ernesto d'Andrade. 2000. The phonological system of Portuguese. In *The Phonology of Portuguese*, pp. 10-37 (chapter 2). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

M&d'A Mateus, Maria Helena and Ernesto d'Andrade. 2000. Syllable structure. In *The Phonology of Portuguese*, pp. 38-64 (chapter 3). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

R&A Rinke, Esther and Elisabeth Aßmann. 2017. The syntax of relative clauses in European Portuguese. Extending the determiner hypothesis of relativizers to relative *que*. *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*, 16(4):1-26.

W Wetzels, W. Leo. 1997. The lexical representation of nasality in Brazilian Portuguese. *Probus*, 9: 203-232.

8. Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Obs
1	Sep 4	Course outline; introduction		
1	Sep 6	History of Portuguese; European vs. Brazilian Portuguese	B&L	
2	Sep 11	Phonology: sound system and consonantal processes	M&d'A ch.2	
2	Sep 13	Phonology: consonantal processes	M&d'A ch.2	
3	Sep 18	Phonology: vowel processes	M&d'A ch.2	
3	Sep 20	Phonology: vowel processes	M&d'A ch.2	
4	Sep 25	Nasality	W	Quiz 1
4	Sep 27	Nasality	W	
5	Oct 02	Syllable structure	M&d'A ch.3	
5	Oct 04	Syllable structure	M&d'A ch.3	HW1 out
6	Oct 09	Stress	G	
6	Oct 11	Stress; Typology	G	HW1 due
7	Oct 16	Null subjects	F	
7	Oct 18	Null subjects	F	
8	Oct 23	Null objects	C&L	
8	Oct 25	Null objects	C&L	

9	Oct 30	Bare nouns and DPs	C&E	
9	Nov 1	Bare nouns and DPs	C&E	Quiz 2
10	Nov 6	'se' constructions	M&N	
10	Nov 8	'se' constructions	M&N	HW2 out
11	Nov 13	<i>Wh</i> -expressions (relatives)	R&A	
11	Nov 15	<i>Wh</i> -expressions (relatives)	R&A	HW2 due
12	Nov 20	Typology		
12	Nov 22	Typology		
13	Nov 27	Final project presentations		paper due
13	Nov 29	Final project presentations		
