

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 201 — Winter 2020
MW(F) 13:35–14:25, ADAMS AUD

Instructors

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TA Office hours: TBA

Content of the course

This course offers a general introduction to linguistics, the study of language structure. During the semester we will cover the major subfields of theoretical linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Requirements and evaluation

5 problem sets	30% (6% each)
5 quizzes	10% (2% each)
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	40%

Problem sets

Over the course of the semester, you will have 5 problem sets to turn in. These problem sets are due on MyCourses **typed in PDF format by 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

- Short quizzes will be available on MyCourses, to be completed outside of class on the specified date, usually briefly after the end of each of the five units in the course (see schedule below). More information will be provided in the lectures prior to each quiz to help you prepare for these.
- The midterm exam is scheduled for **Wednesday February 19** from 13:35 to 14:35 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.
- 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

Readings will be available on myCourses, and on reserve at Redpath Library. Readings will be selected from the following textbooks:

- O'Grady & Archibald (2016) *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction* Pearson.
- Fromkin, V. (2000) *Linguistics: An introduction to linguistic theory*. Blackwell Publishing.
- Saeed, J. (2015) *Semantics*. Wiley Blackwell.

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 in class). 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**, and all email should be sent from your McGill email address. While we will endeavor 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

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 work 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

© 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.

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.

Tentative schedule

Date			Topics (tentative)	Reading (may change)	
1	M	1/6	Introduction		
	W	1/8	Phonetics 1: Introduction; speech production	O&A 2.1, 2.2	<i>PS 1 out</i>
	F	1/10	Phonetics 2: The IPA; consonants	O&A 2.3–2.5	
2	M	1/13	Phonetics 3: Vowels	O&A 2.6, 2.7	
	W	1/15	Phonetics 4: Coarticulation; prosody	O&A 2.8	
	F	1/17	Phonology 1: Phonemes and allophones:	O&A 3.1	
3	M	1/20	Phonology 2: Phonological processes	O&A 3.1	PS 1 due
	W	1/22	Phonology 3: Syllable structure	O&A 3.2	
	F	1/24	<i>Conference 1</i>		
4	M	1/27	Phonology 4: Natural classes; phonological rules	O&A 3.4	Quiz 2
	W	1/29	Phonology 5: Derivation tables & catch-up	O&A 3.4	
	F	1/31	<i>Conference 2</i>		
5	M	2/3	Morphology 1: Intro; morphemes & allomorphs	Fromkin 2.2, 2.4	PS 2 due; PS 3 out
	W	2/5	Morphology 2: Types of morphemes; complex words	Fromkin 2.3, 2.5	
	F	2/7	<i>Conference 3</i>		
6	M	2/10	Morphology 3: Other morphological phenomena	Fromkin 2.6	Quiz 3
	W	2/12	Morphology 4: Problems in morphological analysis	Fromkin 2.9	
	F	2/14	<i>Conference 4</i>		
7	M	2/17	Midterm review		PS 3 due
	W	2/19	Midterm exam		
	F	2/21	No conference		
8	M	2/24	Syntax 1: syntactic knowledge	O&A 5.1	
	W	2/26	Syntax 2: constituency	O&A 5.2	
	F	2/28	<i>Conference 5</i>		
			Study break		
9	M	3/9	Syntax 3: X-bar theory	O&A 5.2	Quiz 4
	W	3/11	Syntax 4: movement	O&A 5.3	
	F	3/13	<i>Conference 6</i>		
10	M	3/16	Syntax 5: language variation	O&A 5.4, 5.5	<i>PS 4 available</i>
	W	3/18	Syntax 6: language variation		
	F	3/20	<i>Conference 7</i>		
11	M	3/23	Semantics & Pragmatics 1: semantic knowledge	Saeed 1	PS 4 due
	W	3/25	Sem & Prag 2: meaning composition	Saeed 4.4	
	F	3/27	<i>Conference 8</i>		
12	M	3/30	Sem & Prag 3: semantic relations	Saeed 4.5	Quiz 5; PS 5 available
	W	4/1	Sem & Prag 4: implicatures	Saeed 7.7	
	F	4/3	<i>Conference 9</i>		
13	M	4/6	Special topics		PS 5 due
	W	4/8	Review		
			Easter long weekend		
14	T	4/14	<i>Conference 10</i>		
			Final exam		