

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 201 — Fall 2020

MWF; 11:35–12:25 (Montreal time)

Instructors

	Francisco Torreira	Carol-Rose Little
<i>email</i>	francisco.torreira@mcgill.ca	crl223@cornell.edu
<i>office hours</i>	Wednesdays 3–5 PM	Wednesdays 2–4 PM

Teaching assistants

Masashi Harada — masashi.harada@mail.mcgill.ca

Wei Zhang — wei.zhang@mail.mcgill.ca

Jonathan Palucci — jonathan.palucci@mail.mcgill.ca

Emily Goodwin — emily.goodwin@mail.mcgill.ca

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 (i.e. phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics) as well as other topics such as pragmatics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language acquisition, and language documentation.

Remote delivery

- All lectures will be taught live via Zoom. Lectures will be recorded live, and posted on MyCourses. They will remain available throughout the semester. All Zoom links will be posted on myCourses.
- Starting in week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA (but see exception on Oct 23 in the tentative schedule below. Conferences will **not** be recorded, but they will be held at various times on Fridays in order to accommodate students located in different time zones (morning / afternoon / early evening; more details on myCourses). To determine which conference you will attend, **you must sign up on Minerva**.
- All assignments, quizzes, and exams (see below) will be posted on myCourses. In order to accommodate students in different time zones, we will keep online exams and quizzes open for 48 hours.
- All course materials (e.g. lecture slides, conference handouts, supplementary readings) will be posted on myCourses as early as possible, and will remain available throughout the semester.
- Instructor office hours (see below) will be held weekly online, and can be scheduled by appointment.

Requirements and evaluation

Evaluation scheme

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

Short quizzes will be available on MyCourses, to be completed outside of class on the specified date (see schedule below). More information will be provided in the lectures prior to each quiz to help you prepare for these.

Exams

Exams will cover all material discussed in lectures and conferences. If for some reason you cannot attend a conference or lecture, you should make sure that you get the relevant notes from a classmate.

The midterm exam will be available on myCourses for 48 hours starting on Wednesday Oct 21 at 9 AM. This will be an open-book exam (more information on myCourses). 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 higher priority than LING 201.

The final exam, which will also have an open-book format, will be 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

No textbook is required for this class. All supplementary materials readings will be made available freely on myCourses.

Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held online 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)	Deadlines
1	W	9/2	Introduction	
	F	9/4	Phonetics 1: Introduction; speech production	
2	M	9/7	<i>Labour Day</i>	
	W	9/9	Phonetics 2: The IPA; consonants	
	F	9/11	Phonetics 3: Vowels	
3	M	9/14	Phonetics 4: Coarticulation; prosody	Quiz 1
	W	9/16	Phonology 1: Phonemes and allophones	
	F	9/18	<i>Conference 1</i>	
4	M	9/21	Phonology 2: Phonological processes	PS 1 due
	W	9/23	Phonology 3: Syllable structure	
	F	9/25	<i>Conference 2</i>	
5	M	9/28	Phonology 4: Natural classes; phonological rules	Quiz 2
	W	9/30	Morphology 1: Intro; morphemes & allomorphs	
	F	10/2	<i>Conference 3</i>	
6	M	10/5	Morphology 2: Types of morphemes; complex words	PS 2 due
	W	10/7	Morphology 3: Other morphological phenomena	
	F	10/9	<i>Conference 4</i>	
7	M	10/12	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	Quiz 3
	W	10/14	Morphology 4: Problems in morphological analysis	
	F	10/16	<i>Conference 5</i>	
8	M	10/19	Midterm review	
	W	10/21	Midterm exam	
	F	10/23	Syntax 1: Grammaticality, word order	
9	M	10/26	Syntax 2: Lexical categories, arguments of verbs	PS 3 due
	W	10/28	Syntax 3: Predicates, selection, intro to phrase structure	
	F	10/30	<i>Conference 6</i>	
10	M	11/2	Syntax 4: Argument structure, phrase structure	Quiz 4
	W	11/4	Syntax 5: Phrase structure, constituency tests	
	F	11/6	<i>Conference 7</i>	
11	M	11/9	Semantics 1: Entailment, compositionality	PS 4 due
	W	11/11	Semantics 2: Truth values, quantifiers	
	F	11/13	<i>Conference 8</i>	
12	M	11/16	Semantics 3: Denotation, presupposition, implicature	Quiz 5
	W	11/18	Pragmatics: Rules of conversation, Gricean maxims	
	F	11/20	<i>Conference 9</i>	
13	M	11/23	Sociolinguistics: Variation, dialect versus language	
	W	11/25	Historical linguistics: Language change over time	
	F	11/27	<i>Conference 10</i>	
14	M	11/30	Indigenous languages and language documentation	PS 5 due
	W	12/2	Language acquisition	
	Th	12/3	Final review	
			Final exam	