



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LING 201-01
Introduction to Linguistics
Winter 2021
Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 AM on zoom (plus asynchronous components)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR NAME: Dimitrios Skordos

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment via email

E-MAIL: dimitrios.skordos@ucalgary.ca I will respond to e-mails within 48 hours during weekdays.

DESCRIPTION

Language is a fundamental property of human nature. No matter how small or isolated, all human societies use language, a uniquely rich and complex system found in no other animal communication. What is the nature of human language? What is the linguistic knowledge every human has? What is the hidden knowledge we all have that allows us to speak and understand our language(s)? How do languages differ or are the same? How do we study any human language applying linguistic tools, without necessarily speaking the language? In this course, we will answer these questions by exploring the formal properties of language concentrating on the core components of linguistic analysis: (1) phonetics (sounds of language), (2) phonology (sound system), (3) morphology (word structure), (4) syntax (sentence structure), and (5) semantics and pragmatics (meaning).

OBJECTIVES

This course will give students an overview of the field of modern linguistics and basic skills in linguistic analysis. We will illustrate common linguistic phenomena using data from a variety of languages. Students will develop an understanding of the basic units and principles involved in analyzing the sound, word, and sentence structure and meaning of language.

Students will develop:

- Knowledge of the discipline
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Teamwork and communication skills
- Intercultural and ethical competency

OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to discuss issues related to the nature and function of language with respect to phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Students will be able to describe the concepts and methodologies used in linguistics to analyze language patterns.
- Students will be able to use the technical vocabulary and theoretical tools of the field.
- **Phonetics:** Students will be able to recognize and analyze specific sounds of English and other languages. They will have a good working knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
- **Phonology:** Students will be able to understand and apply systematic properties of the sound system of English and other languages. They will have a good working knowledge of phonological features and phonological rules and constraints.
- **Morphology:** Students will be able to recognize and analyze the structure of words of English and other languages. They will have a good working knowledge of the morphological processes that operate in word formation.
- **Syntax:** Students will be able to recognize the structure and function of sentences in English and other languages. They will have a good working knowledge of syntactic tree construction.
- **Semantics:** Students will be able to explain how meaning is encoded in words and sentences.



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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) William O'Grady & John Archibald (2021). *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction* (9th edition). Pearson.
 - Note that the book is available to purchase in the university bookstore. You may consider purchasing the ebook version.
- 2) Any additional materials will be posted on D2L.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

William O'Grady & John Archibald (2021). Study guide for contemporary linguistic analysis: An introduction (9th edition). Pearson.

COURSE NOTES

The course includes both synchronous and asynchronous components. Every week, students are asked to engage in the following activities on their own (asynchronous components): (1) do the relevant readings, (2) watch the recorded lectures, and (3) do a short quiz on D2L. Also, every Friday, 10:00 -10:50AM, there will be a live session on zoom (synchronous component), where we practice problem sets.

Course work is administered through D2L. Any accommodation for late assignments will only be considered in cases of an unavoidable circumstance of sufficient gravity. Please see D2L for an exhaustive list of class policies and expectations.

Attendance at the live session is not required, but it is **very strongly** encouraged. Students' performance on assignments is typically negatively impacted by no/minimal attendance as we go through problem sets similar to those in assignments and students have an opportunity to practice problem-solving skills.

Guidelines for Zoom meetings: Students are asked to mute their audio at all times. To ask a question, use the chat function. All classes will be recorded and posted on D2L by the instructors. Students will not be permitted to record the lectures.

Technology requirements:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
- Stable internet connection

ASSESSMENT

5 Assignments	x 10 points	= 50
10 Quizzes	x 2 points	= 20
1 Cumulative Final Exam	x 30 points	= 30

Assignments: Students are evaluated on their understanding of the content covered in each module. The assignments may include essay questions on the main ideas discussed in the materials and datasets from a variety of languages that students have to analyze. Students will have a week to work on their assignments. Students are encouraged to discuss assignment problems with classmates, however each student must write up and submit their work independently.



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Quizzes: To help the students keep up with the readings and evaluate their understanding of important concepts and methodologies we discuss, weekly short quizzes will be administered through D2L. The quizzes are not graded in terms of correct/incorrect answers, but in terms of participation. For full credit, students must do 10 of the 13 quizzes.

Final Exam: There will be a final, cumulative, take-home exam, similar in format to the HW assignments but covering the entire content of the class. Students will have a week to work on their final exam.

Extra credit: Students may add an optional bonus component that can add up to 4 points to their final grade. The educational objective of this component of the course is to provide students with an introduction to contemporary research in the field of linguistics. Students can complete this component by either participating in ongoing research studies in the linguistics division, by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list, or by a combination of these two options. More information will be posted on D2L.

GRADING SCALE

Criteria for Letter Grades

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+ = 100-97; A = 93-96; A- = 92-88; B+ = 87-83; B = 82-78; B- = 77-73; C+ = 72-68; C = 67-63; C- = 62-58; D+ = 57-53; D = 52-50; F = 49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A, but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).



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INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.



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ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Student Organizations: Linguistics students may wish to join the Linguistics Undergraduate Student Club (Verbatim). They are located in Craigie Hall C 209 and may be contacted at verbatim@ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.