

Linguistics 100 – Communication and Language

Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University – Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR: **DR. MAITE TABOADA**

Class: Wednesdays 9:30 am-12:20 pm, K 9500

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 pm

Office: RCB 8109

Phone: 778-782-5585

Course materials, information and announcements: Available through Canvas (canvas.sfu.ca)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: **LUCA CAVASSO AND HEIKAL BADRULHISHAM**

Office hours: Mondays 12-1 pm

Office: RCB 9223

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The Teaching Assistants should be your first contact for straightforward questions about the course. They'll take turns holding office hours each week in RCB 9223.

Course Description

This course introduces the study of language and human communication using examples from a variety of languages. It counts as Breadth-Social Sciences.

Prerequisites

None

Required Text

O'Grady and Archibald (eds.) *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction*. 8th Edition. Pearson. ISBN 9780 134 046 792 (Note that LING220 will use the same textbook).

Additional reading materials and slides will be made available on Canvas.

Course expectations

- Students are expected to **attend all classes** and to arrive on time so that classes may begin promptly. Announcements will be made at the beginning and end of classes regarding the assigned readings and the expectations for exams.

- Students are expected to **have read all assigned readings before class**. Because many students will be learning about a new field of study, some of the materials and concepts may seem fairly complex. You should probably read assigned readings and go over the lecture notes multiple times.
- It is very important for students to **participate** in class discussions. Therefore, everyone must come to class prepared. Preparation includes carefully reading of the assigned material, noting any questions that you have, and thinking of how the reading relates to your own personal experiences.
- Students will be **responsible for all materials** covered in the assigned readings and lectures.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Students will be **respectful** of other students and the instructor. In particular, students will not talk while the instructor or another student is talking.
- Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's **Standards on Class Management** and Student Responsibilities at:
<https://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>
- **Cell phones**: please make sure that your cell phone (or any other noisy device, including alarms) is turned off during class.
- **Academic dishonesty** in all forms violates the basic principles of integrity and thus impedes learning. More specifically, academic dishonesty is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes the following: cheating, fabrication, fraud, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. For more information on academic honesty and student conduct, please visit the following websites:
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2019/spring/fees-and-regulations/student-contract/academic-honesty.html>
<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html>
A grade of "FD" may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.
Tutors, editors, or any other types of outside help are not allowed. Exceptions are the assistance provided through the Student Learning Commons (see below, under Resources).
- A missed exam means a grade of 0 unless: 1) you are ill on the day of the exam, 2) you have told me so before the exam (via e-mail or phone message), and 3) you give me a medical note as soon as possible after you return to class. In that case, the weight of that exam will be distributed across the other course components. Following departmental policy, no make-up exams are given for missed midterms/quizzes.
- Under no circumstances will students be allowed to write the final exam early. If you have travel plans or career plans in April, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the final examination schedule.
- Please note that students requiring accommodations as a result of a **disability** must contact the Center for Accessible Learning (778-782-3112 or caladmin@sfu.ca).
- All student requests for accommodation for **religious practices** must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

E-mail policy

I strongly discourage the use of e-mail for communication about class matters, and in particular about course content. Messages through Canvas are also an inefficient way to get in touch. Instead, I suggest you come see me during office hours, or catch me right before or after class. You can always call me on the phone if you cannot be on campus during my office hours.

If you are sick and need to miss an exam, please do send me an e-mail message, but do not expect a reply.

Information on copyright

In Canada, copyright law automatically protects written and creative works (e.g., text, art, music or performance), in all formats, as soon as they are created and until 50 years after the creator's death. The creator of the work (i.e., author, composer or artist) often owns copyright, though for published works the publisher may own copyright. A work does not need to be marked with © or a copyright statement to be protected. A copyright protected work cannot be copied (i.e., scanned, printed, downloaded, emailed or photocopied) without the copyright owner's permission, except in certain situations outlined in the *Copyright Act* (see SFU's Fair Dealing Policy for details).

Course materials such as PowerPoint slides, lecture notes, the lecture itself, assignments and exams are all protected by copyright. You are NOT allowed to reproduce them, mail them or upload them to any site for a purpose other than your own study. Selling course materials is a violation of copyright law, and a cheapening of your tuition dollars.

SFU students, faculty and staff are required to abide by Canada's *Copyright Act* as well as SFU's copyright policies. Find information about what this means for students at SFU's copyright website, <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/academic-integrity/copyright>, or by contacting the Copyright Office at copy@sfu.ca. If you are copying works, using them in presentations and projects, or sharing them with other students, you should familiarize yourself with the guidelines and limits contained in SFU's Fair Dealing Policy.

Components of the Course

The course consists of lectures, which will also contain practice exercises and group work. You will also engage in online discussion, and complete quizzes and assignments in class. You are supposed to read the corresponding material *before* coming to class. Material to be covered follows the schedule below and will also be announced in class.

Quizzes and participation

There will be weekly quizzes on Canvas. They will count towards your participation grade. Quizzes are open for a few days and due before class. They are meant to help you go through the readings before coming to class.

You will also earn participation points by taking part in research in the Linguistics Department. There are two options:

- Research participation. 1 or 2 points per experiment. Please note that the number of points depends on the experiment and is not controlled by the instructor. You may earn a maximum of 2 percentage points for class participation by doing this. See the list of available projects and explanation of the procedures at: http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/research/research_participation_system.html
- Attendance at colloquia in Linguistics, Cognitive Science, or other colloquia approved by the instructor (2 points each). You may earn a maximum of 2 percentage point for class

participation by doing this. For credit, you must send me (via Canvas) a one-sentence summary of something you learned from the talk that could not be gleaned from the abstract alone.

Online discussion

Participation in online discussion is required. There are two components to participation:

1. Leading discussion. This is a group activity. Each week, a group will be in charge of leading the discussion. This includes posting 2-3 prompts for discussion at the beginning of the week (by 9 am Monday), monitoring the discussion throughout the week, and posting a summary by the end of the week (by 11:59 pm Friday).
This will be 5% of your participation grade for the course, and it will be the same for all members of the group.
2. Participating in discussion. This is an individual activity. Everybody in the class is expected to participate, every week, and will be graded every week. The average grade of all your participations will constitute 10% of your participation grade for the course.

Detailed rubrics for online discussion are available on Canvas.

Assignments

To be done in groups and submitted through Canvas. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Midterm exam

The midterm exam will consist of true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions.

Final exam

The final exam will be very similar to the midterm.

Tips for success

In general, students who do well in this course follow these principles:

- Attend class regularly
- Do all assignments and exercises
- Ask questions in class or during office hours
- Keep up with new material
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Participate in study groups

Course Grade

The final grade will be calculated according to the percentages below. The final grade will take into account class attendance and participation (especially for students who are close to the next letter grade).

	DATE	WEIGHT
Quizzes and participation	Throughout the semester	15%
Online discussion	Throughout the semester	15%
Assignments	Throughout the semester	15%

Midterm exam	February 13, in class 9:30-11:20 am	25%
Final exam	Wednesday, April 24, 8:30-10:30 am, place TBA	30%

Percentage scores on assignments and exams will be based on objective criteria. Final letter course grades will be computed from percentage scores on assignments and exams. The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. Due attention will be given to the verbal descriptions listed below. There is no university-wide standard scale. An instructor adopts a grade scale appropriate to the level and content of the course.

96-100%	A+	Extraordinary performance	66-70%	C+	Satisfactory performance
91-95%	A	Excellent performance	61-65%	C	
86-90%	A-		56-60%	C-	Marginal performance
81-85%	B+	50-55%	D		
76-80%	B	Good performance	< 50%	F	Unsatisfactory performance
71-75%	B-				(fail)

Grade Appeals

If a student wishes to contest the marking of an exam, assignment or paper, the instructor can agree to remark his/her entire exam at the instructor's convenience and not in front of the student. A grade reconsideration may raise the grade, lower the grade, or leave the grade unchanged, as stated in Policy T20.01, clause 2.4.

Grade appeals must be made in writing. An exam written in pencil cannot be re-assessed.

The only reason a grade change will be made is if there is an arithmetic error or if it has been determined that the exam, assignment or paper deserves a lower grade or a higher grade after it has been remarked.

The following are not reasons for reconsideration of a grade:

- The student is on probation.
- The student wants to get into Business or any other program.
- The student worked hard and thinks this should be a factor.
- The student does not like the grade scale.
- The student's score is x% below the next grade and would like the instructor to ignore the difference.

Resources

A number of resources are available to the students in the class.

The SFU Learning Commons is available to all SFU students, and provides assistance with learning, academic writing and reading strategies (<http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/>).

All the class material will be available through canvas (<https://canvas.sfu.ca/>). Please check it frequently, and make sure you avail yourself of all the tools that you may need. I will also post there interesting social media accounts to follow on language topics.

Topics and schedule of readings

The following list is subject to change; you should always consult the Canvas version of the syllabus and schedule. There will also be additional readings for each topic posted on Canvas. Chapters here refer to those in the textbook.

Week	Date	Topic	Read (before class)
1	Jan. 9	Introduction; Origin of language	Chapter 1
2	Jan. 16	Human language vs. animal communication	Chapter 16 (available on Canvas)
3	Jan. 23	The classification of languages; Aboriginal languages of Canada	Chapter 7; Chapter 8
4	Jan. 30	First language acquisition	Chapter 10
5	Feb. 6	Second language acquisition	Chapter 11
6	Feb. 13	Midterm ; Linguistic relativity	Canvas readings
7	Feb. 20	<i>Feb. 9-13 Family Day + Reading Break. No classes</i>	

8	Feb. 27	Psycholinguistics	Chapter 12
9	Mar. 6	Brain and language	Chapter 13
10	Mar. 13	Language and society	Chapter 14
11	Mar. 20	Language and society	Canvas readings
12	Mar. 27	Writing systems	Chapter 15
13	Apr. 3	Review	
	Apr. 24 (Wednesday)	Final exam, 8:30 – 10:30 am. Place TBA	