

Linguistics 220, Introduction to Linguistics

Lecture: Mondays, 10:30-12:20 AQ 3182

Tutorials: Tuesday through Thursday (see your course registration)

Contact information

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(go to Teaching/Ling 220, lectures etc.)

Office Hours

John Alderete, RCB 8315, Mon 1-2, Tues 1-2
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Mehran Norafkan, RCB 8314, Wed 10:30-11:30

General description

Linguistics 220 introduces the complexities of human language by focusing on the core areas of linguistics: *phonetics* (production, transmission, and perception of speech), *phonology* (the patterning of speech sounds in language), *morphology* (word structure and formation), *syntax* (sentence structure and formation), and *semantics* (analysis of meaning in language). There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required text

Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction (CLA). Custom edition for Simon Fraser University. Boston: Pearson Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-536-18237-X

Lecture notes

The slides of the lectures notes are available from the course website (see above). There is strong overlap with the lectures and the textbook reading, but there are some cases in which the lectures extend and develop new material. Exams will draw on material from the textbook, the lectures, and all tutorial work, so they are an important student resource. It is recommended that the lecture notes be printed out prior to each class and commented on during lecture.

Course goals

- By the end of the course, you are expected to have a good basic understanding of the key concepts that are used in the five core sub-disciplines of contemporary linguistics, as they relate to both linguistic description and linguistic analysis.
- You are also expected to have developed analytical and problem-solving skills that will provide the foundations for more specialized linguistics courses, and courses in other disciplines as well.

Course assignments and basis for grading

Final exam: 40% of your course grade. This is scheduled by the Registrar for **Sunday Aug. 12, 12:00 noon to 2pm**, location TBA. The final exam is cumulative, but there will be more emphasis on the material presented after the midterm. See policy below for missed exams.

Note: this is an important date, so mark your calendars now. If you have work or travel plans for August, it's the student's responsibility to ensure that they do not conflict with this date.

Midterm exam: 30% of your course grade. It is scheduled for **Monday June 18th**, during normal class hours, i.e., 10:30-12:20, and in the normal class location, AQ 3182

Note: there is no make-up exam for a missed midterm. A missed exam (midterm OR final) equals a 0% unless (1) you're ill on the day of the test or have an extenuating circumstance on that day, and (2) you've informed the instructor either by email prior to the test time, and (3) you subsequently provide a medical note specifying the exact dates of your situation and that you were unable to take the exam because of it. If a student misses the final, and (1-3) apply, a parallel exam may be given. However, the specific questions and data tested on the exam will be significantly different than the normal exam.

Tutorial assignments: 20% of your course grade. The tutorial assignments are designed to give students the chance to turn the information in the reading and lectures into active knowledge. Students may collaborate on the assignments, but each student turns in their own hardcopy of their work. There are a total of ten assignments, listed by week in the Course Schedule below, so each tutorial assignment is worth 2% of the total grade.

Management of the tutorial assignments: Tutorial assignments are to be dropped into the assignment box before lecture starts on Monday, sorted by your TA (remember his/her name). They will be assessed by your tutorial Teaching Assistant for completeness and then returned to you in your tutorial. Completed assignments turned in on time will receive full credit. Otherwise, late or incomplete assignments will receive no credit.

Note: the same rule for missed exams applies to tutorial assignments. If you are sick and cannot complete a specific assignment, communicate to the instructor via email, and provide the instructor with a doctor's note, this assignment may be removed from the required assignments and the grade will be calculated with a different baseline number of total tutorial assignments.

Every tutorial assignment you turn in must have the following first page header:

YOUR NAME/ STUDENT NUMBER	SECTION DAY/TIME	SECTION NUMBER
E.g., Joe Student/34293847283	Thurs/1:30	D107

In sum: provide the header above on all assignments so we can get them to your tutorials. Assignments are due before class starts on Mondays, and only complete assignments turned in on time will receive credit.

Presentation of one tutorial assignment: 5% of your course grade. Each student will give a presentation of a portion of one tutorial assignment in their tutorial. Students will be assigned their presentation topics and which week they will make their presentation, i.e., the particular problem or problems in a particular tutorial assignment in the second week of classes. Presentations will be graded as follows: 70% 'satisfactory', 85% 'good', 100% 'excellent'. See the handout Preparing a strong presentation handout on the webpage for how to get a good grade on this assignment.

Tutorial attendance: 5% of your course grade. Everyone starts with the full 5% credit for this. For each tutorial that you are absent or late without a documented medical reason, you lose .5%. You are considered "late" if the tutorial leader has already returned the tutorial assignments before you arrive (usually within the first five minutes of tutorial) and has taken role.

Linguistics 220 is graded on a percentage basis as follows:

97-100%	A+	85-88%	B+	73-76%	C+	57-64%	D
93-96%	A	81-84%	B	69-72%	C	< 56%	F
89-92%	A-	77-80%	B-	65-68%	C-		

Note that there is no university-wide standard scale. An instructor adopts a grade scale appropriate to the level and content of the course.

Class format

Lectures: There is a single two-hour lecture on Tuesdays from 10:30-12:30. Lectures start exactly on time. The first part of the class will set aside some time for your questions a review of earlier material. You'll benefit most from the lectures if you've read the assigned material in advance. It's also good to bring the textbook with you to the lecture, as I do refer to it in class. Also, the lectures, reading, and homeworks provide much of the material for the exams.

Tutorials: There is a one-hour tutorial each week designed to flesh out the material from the lectures and readings with hands-on problems. A lot of learning goes on in tutorials: they are your opportunity to ask questions, go over the details of the lecture and homework, and get support and guidance that is not easy to deliver in lectures. Active participation in tutorials is key to success in this course.

Note: stay in your tutorial group that you signed up in during registration (unless you switch legitimately through the SFU registration website). “Tutorial hopping” creates lots of problems and is an obstacle to learning. Also, we have excellent TAs in Linguistics 220 so there is no valid reason to cherry-pick one tutorial section over another once you’ve settled in a section.

Studying in groups: You are strongly encouraged to get together with one or two of your classmates on a regular basis and ask questions and work together on Linguistics 220 problems. Challenge your classmates by asking hard questions. Especially in Linguistics 220, people tend to be strong in one part of the course and a bit weaker in others. Some excel at syntax, others at phonology, etc. With the right study partners you can really help each other be successful.

While you make work together in groups, each student is responsible for their own homework assignments. No group submissions are allowed for the two homework assignments or tutorial problems.

Email

I try to get to email with a two day time period, if email is the appropriate way to answer the question. If you have sent an email and haven’t received a reply in two days, please resend it; email can get lost in cyberspace.

Before you send an email, however, please ask yourself if the answer to your question wasn’t already answered in class or in the course materials. Also ask yourself if your question would be more suitable for the tutorial or pre-lecture question period. Email can be a very ineffective way of dealing with some questions.

Also, make sure you put ‘LING 220’ in the subject line and sign your email with your full name and student number. I do not answer anonymous emails, nor will I respond to rude or aggressive email, or questions that are plainly available in the course materials.

Academic dishonesty

In Linguistics, we take a very hard line on all forms of academic dishonesty because it’s unfair, and what is more, it is an obstacle to learning. You should be aware of what academic dishonesty consists of, and its consequences, by visiting these website:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html>

General information

Students requiring accommodations as the result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112).

Student requests for accommodation of 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.

Please also familiarize yourself with the Linguistic department’s Standards on Class Management and Student responsibilities:

www.sfu.ca/linguistics Go to: Undergraduate Program, Student Resources, Department Standards

How to succeed in Linguistics 220

1. Do all the readings in advance of the lecture, then reread them again and go over your notes after the lecture. This is not material that can be grasped after a single read.
2. Come to the lectures with your assignments completed. Learning linguistics is like learning to dance—the only way to learn is *by doing it*.
3. Don’t let small problems become big ones. If something is unclear or you are struggling: tell us so we can help. Also, seek out a good study partner.

4. Don't fall behind. In some courses you can put stuff off to the end and catch up with a big push at the end. Linguistics has something in common with weight-training: you succeed by making regular progress.
5. Ask questions. No question is unimportant, and more than likely you are not alone in wanting an answer to your question. We all benefit from good questions.

Class schedule

All page numbers below are to the textbook, *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis*. I expect the readings to be done before the lectures. We will focus on certain parts of each week's readings more than others, and I will bring additional problems to the lectures and tutorials. Tutorial problems are due the week listed.

Week 1: May 7 (lecture), May 8-10 (tutorials)

Reading 1: ONE, "Language, a preview", pp. 1-9

Reading 2: FIVE, PART 1, "Syntax ... Categories and structure", pp. 153-164

Lecture: Course introduction, Input-output processes in linguistics, Lexical and phrasal categories

Tutorial problems: none assigned—tutorial introduction and prepare for next week's tutorial assignment.

Week 2: May 14 (lecture), May 15-17 (tutorials)

Reading: FIVE, PART 2, "Syntax ... Complement options", pp. 165-171

Lecture: The lexicon and Phrase Structure Rules, Subcategorization and complements

Tutorial problems: Problems #1, #2, #6, and #7 pp. 204-205

Week 3, no lecture on May 21 (Victoria Day)

Tutorial problems: Problems #3, #4, and #5 pp. 204-205

Week 4: May 28 (lecture), May 18-21 (tutorials)

Reading: FIVE, PART 3, "Syntax ... Transformations", pp. 171-180, 203-204

Lecture: Refining the syntactic model, Transformations

Tutorial problems: Problems #8, #9, #10, #11 pp. 205-206

Week 5: June 4 (lecture), June 5-7 (tutorials)

Reading: SIX, PART 1, "Semantics ... The nature of meaning", pp. 210-217

Lecture: The nature of linguistic meaning, Set-theoretic semantics

Tutorial problems: Problems #1, #2, and #3 p. 241; Set World Problem on website (see 'Other Stuff')

Note: pay special attention to the lecture notes for Set-theoretic semantics, as there is no coverage of this in the book, but it will be on the exam. Also, the Set World Problem is not in the textbook and will have to be downloaded from the course website.

Week 6: June 11 (lecture), June 12-14 (tutorials)

Reading: SIX, PARTS 3.1-2, 4, "Semantics: ... Syntax and sentence interpretation/Other factors", pp. 225-227, 234-240

Lecture: Translating trees to meanings, Pragmatics and implied meaning

Tutorial problems: Problem #17 p. 245; From Trees to Meanings Problem on website (see 'Other Stuff')
section review

Note: the From Trees to Meanings Problem is not in the textbook and will have to be downloaded from the course website.

Week 7: June 18 Midterm exam, June 19-21 (tutorials)

Tutorial problem: supplemental problems

Week 8: June 25 (lecture), June 26-28 (tutorials)

Reading: FOUR, PARTS 1, 2 and 3, “Morphology... Word structure, Derivation, Inflection”, pp. 107-122, 130-133, 146-147

Lecture:, Morpheme-based morphology, Derivation and inflection

Tutorial problems: Review midterm answers, supplemental problems

Week 9: no lecture on July 2 (Canada Day), July 3-5 (tutorials)

Reading: None, review week 8’s readings

Tutorial problems: Problems #1 and #2 p. 147

Week 10: July 9 (lecture), July 10-12 (tutorials)

Reading: TWO, PARTS 1, 2, 3, “Phonetics... Transcription, Anatomy, Sound classes”, pp. 13-19;

And: TWO, PARTS 4, 5, 6, 7, “Phonetics... Consonants, Manner, Vowels, Canadian English”, pp. 20-35

Lecture: Articulatory phonetics, Phonetics of English consonants and vowels

Tutorial problems: Problems #5, #7, and #10 pp. 148-150

Week 11: July 16 (lecture), July 17-19 (tutorials)

Reading: THREE, PARTS 1, 2, 3, “Phonology ... Segments in contrast, Phonemes and allophones, Transcription”, pp. 56-70, 97-98

Lecture: Phonetics refresher, Phonemics

Tutorial problems: #1, #3, #4, #5, and #6 pp. 52-53

Week 12: July 23 (lecture), July 24-26 (tutorials)

Reading: THREE, PARTS 5, 6 “Phonology ... Features, Derivations and rules”, pp. 79-96

Lecture: Phonological features, phonological rules

Tutorial problems: #7, #8, #9, and #10 pp. 53-54, and #2 and #3 pp. 99-100

Week 13: July 30 (lecture), July 31, Aug. 1-2 (tutorials)

Reading: THREE, PART 4, “Phonology. ... Syllables” pp. 70-79

Lecture: The syllable, course review

Tutorial problems: #1 p. 99, #10 p. 102

Final exam: Sunday Aug. 12, 12noon-2pm, location TBA