

Summer 2018

Linguistics 220, Introduction to Linguistics

Tues 10:30-11:20 (AQ 3159), Thurs 9:30-11:20 (SWH 10041)

Contact information

Instructor: John Alderete, alderete@sfu.ca

Office hours: Tues noon-1pm, RCB 8117

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). Edited by: William O-Grady and John Archibald.

8th Edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada. Pearson. ISBN 978-0-13-404679-2 (loose leaf version, no companion website access code). Paperback version, ISBN: 978-0-321-83615-1

Lecture notes and supplemental material

The slides of the lectures, special handouts, and supplemental problems are available on Canvas. There is some overlap with the lectures and the textbook reading, *but there are many cases in which the lectures extend and develop new material*. Exams will draw on material from the textbook, the lectures, and all problem-solving work, so they are important student resources. It is recommended that the lecture notes be printed out prior to each class and take notes on them during lecture.

Course goals

- By the end, 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 to describe and analyze linguistic data.
- 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 weightings and important dates (*please mark your calendars for these dates*)

- Homeworks (see due dates below): 10%
- Quiz 1 (June 5th): 12%
- Midterm (June 21st): 29%
- Quiz 2 (July 24th): 12%
- Final exam (Aug. 10, 8:30am): 37%

Acceptance of course policies

This document can be downloaded from Canvas. It contains my expectations as the instructor. By enrolling in this course, you are accepting the course policies described in this document.

Explanations of course assignments and policies

Midterm and final exams: exams are cumulative and can draw on all material that has been covered in any class prior to the exam. However, there will be a natural focus in the final exam on the material covered after the midterm, i.e., morphology, phonetics, and phonology. These exams are scantron and will have True/False and Multiple Choice questions. The midterm will take place during the entire class of June 21. Grades are assigned as a percentage of correct responses.

Quizzes: these tests are shorter and will require you to organize a small dataset and write a one-page essay that gives an analysis of this dataset. They will take place during the last 30 minutes of the Tuesday classes, i.e., 10:50-11:20 on June 5th (quiz 1) and July 24th (quiz 2). Grades are assigned using a rubric that assesses how well the essay answers the stated questions. In general, answers should be thorough (answer all of the questions), clear (expressed in clear organized language), and carefully organized (ideas organized and illustrated in a compelling way).

Missed exams: there are no make-up exams or quizzes. If you have to miss an exam (midterm or quiz) because of medical reasons, you are required to contact me prior to the exam via email. By the following week, I will need a Certificate of Illness from your regular medical doctor specifying the date of your absence, the reason, and justification for missing the exam or quiz. I will call the doctor to confirm the note. You must use the Certificate of Illness form from the SFU Student Services Forms website to document your illness and it must be signed by your regular doctor. Following departmental policy, make-ups for exams or quizzes will not be given. If you have a Certificate of Illness for the date of one of the exams, the weight of that exam will be added to the weight of the other exams. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of 0 for it. Further, under no circumstances will students be allowed to write exams early. If you have travel or work plans during the semester, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the examination schedule.

Homeworks: the homeworks 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 they must submit their own completed homework. All homeworks are submitted and graded on Canvas. Using the Upload function, you are to submit a PDF or a scanned document. Homeworks are graded on the basis of completion, and the reviewed on the following Tuesday class. That is, students receive 100% if it is complete and 0% if it is not complete. Answers to questions do not have to be all correct, but a valid attempt at all of them is required for 100%. Homeworks must be submitted on Canvas by noon of the Monday prior to the Tuesday when we go over them (see schedule and Canvas for specific dates). There are no late homeworks, so if you do not submit the homework on time you will receive a 0% for it.

Supplemental problems: to extend the knowledge generated in the lectures and homeworks, we will engage in a set of supplemental problems that are more challenging than those in the book. These too are important ‘core material’ and are fair game for exams. They will usually be presented during the Tuesday class in a workshop format.

Research Participation System (RPS): this system provides students with the opportunity to see how linguistic research is conducted, and it can enhance your understanding of course themes. For that reason, students can be rewarded for participating in experiments in the following way. There are two kinds of rewards from the RPS system: making up for missed homeworks, and, if all homeworks are submitted on time, a boost to a quiz grade. Here are the details: students can participate in two RPS studies, and each of these can change a 0% on a missed homework to a 100%. If all the homeworks have a 100% grade, then the student may do an (additional) RPS study for a 5% boost to one of the quiz grades, e.g., a 85% → 90%. Some RPS studies are longer than others and give a different number of ‘points’, but for this class, those points do not count, only the number of studies. The administrators of the RPS study keep track of your participation and send me the details at the end of the semester, so you do not need to provide the instructor with this information. For more on the RPS and contact information on the studies, go to:

https://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/research/research_participation_system.html

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 the website below, as well the department standards in Linguistics.

Academic dishonesty: <https://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html>

Department standards: <https://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>

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. Print out the course materials. Don’t just download the PDFs and look at them. The slides, handouts, and problems are designed to be examined in hardcopy form.
3. Come to the lectures with your assignments completed. Learning linguistics is like learning to dance—the only way to learn is *by doing it*.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Grades

Grades are calculated based on achievement of course objectives, as assessed by the course assignments and weightings explained above. There is no grade scale, but letter grades are assigned based on the principle that students should be evenly distributed across grade categories.

Class schedule

All page numbers below are to the textbook, *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis* (= "CLA"). I expect the readings to be done before the lectures. The lecture notes extend the content of the textbook significantly, so you need to come to lecture and engage with this material. Homeworks are listed below, with their due dates. All homeworks are due by noon of the day they are due. The PDF of the lectures are available in the Lectures folder on Canvas, and homeworks not taken from the textbook are in the New Homeworks folder.

May 8, Lecture: Course introduction, Input-output processes (lec1)

May 10

Reading: CLA 139-150

Lecture: Lexical and phrasal categories (lec2), The lexicon and the Phrase Structure Rules (lec3)

May 14: Homework 1 due: CLA 177-178 #2 and CLA #6 and #7 (due at noon, as with homeworks below)

May 15: Review Homework 1 and supplemental problems

May 17

Reading: CLA 150-153, 173-175

Lecture: The lexicon and the Phrase Structure Rules (review), Subcategorization and complements (lec4)

May 21: Homework 2 due: CLA 177-178 #1, #3, #4, and #5

May 22: Review Homework 2 and supplemental problems

May 24

Reading: CLA 154-161, 173-176 (review)

Lecture: Syntax review, Transformations (lec5)

May 28: Homework 3 due: CLA 178-179 #8 (just a-h), #9, #10, #11

May 29: Review of Homework 3 and supplemental problems

May 31

Reading: CLA 181-190, 198-200 and Allwood et al. 1977 "Set Theory" (in Other Stuff folder)

Lecture: The nature of linguistic meaning and set-theoretic semantics (lec6)

June 5: class review and **Quiz 1** (from 10:50-11:20am)

June 7

Reading: CLA 207-212

Lecture: Nature of linguistic meaning cont'd, Pragmatics and implied meaning (lec7)

June 11: Homework 4 due, CLA 213 #3, #4 and the Set World Problem (see New Homeworks)

June 12: Review of Homework 4 and supplemental problems

June 14

Lecture: Syntax and Semantics review

Reading: review all prior reading, lectures, and assignments

June 18: Homework 5 due, CLA 217 #18 and From Trees to Meanings Problem (see New Homeworks)

June 19: Review of Homework 5 and section review

June 21: Midterm (all class, come early)

June 25: Homework 6 due 'Structural ambiguity' (see New Homeworks)

June 26: Review of Homework 6 and supplemental problems

June 28

Reading: CLA 100-130

Lecture: Morpheme-based morphology, derivation, and inflection (lec8)

July 2: Homework 7 due, CLA 130-132 #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7

July 3: Review of Homework 7 and supplemental problems

July 5

Reading: CLA 14-40

Lecture: Articulatory phonetics, English consonants and vowels (lec9)

Please print: Charts for English Consonants and Vowels

July 9: Homework 8 due, CLA 53-54 #1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8

July 10: Review of Homework 8 and supplemental problems

July 12

Lecture: English phonetics, cont'd, Distributions and the concept of the phoneme (lec10)

Reading: CLA 56-65

July 16: Homework 9 due, CLA 54 #9, #10, #11, CLA 93-94 #1, #2, #5

July 17: Review of Homework 9 and supplemental problems

July 19

Reading: CLA 65-92

Lecture: Distributions and phoneme cont'd, Rules, features, and syllables (lec 11)

July 24: class review and Quiz 2 (from 10:50-11:20am)

July 26: Lecture: Rules, features, and syllables cont'd

July 30: Homework 10 due, CLA 93-96 #3, #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #12

July 31: Review of Homework 10 and supplemental problems

Aug. 2

Lecture: Course review

Reading: reread CLA 56-92

August 10, 8:30-11:30, location TBA, Final exam. Cumulative, but there will be a natural focus on morphology, phonetics, and phonology.