

LINGUISTICS 100 – Communication and Language

Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics Simon Fraser University Summer 2016

Instructor: Dr. Debopam Das

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Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (or by appointment)

TA: Wafa Al-Ali

Class: Thursdays 2:30 pm – 5:20 pm at RCB Images Theatre

Course Information: This syllabus and other course information will be available on Canvas

(<http://www.sfu.ca/canvas.html>)

Course Description:

LING 100 explores a wide array of materials about language and its role in human communication. Almost every week, we will examine a new topic such as whether or not animals possess language, how babies learn their first language, how people learn foreign languages, and how language is used differently by people in varying social contexts. We will consider these and many other issues over the course of the semester.

You will learn to think about hard questions in a disciplined way that will help you in other courses, too. No chance of being bored in LING 100 – too much interesting stuff going on!

Schedule of Topics, Readings and Events:

Week	Date	Topics	Read (before class)	Important Events
1	May 12	Introduction to the Course Basics of Linguistic Analysis I	The LING 100 Syllabus Chapter 1	
2	May 19	Basics of Linguistic Analysis II	Chapter 1	
3	May 26	Animal Communication	Chapter 16 (on Canvas)	iClicker: First check (Bring your iClicker to class every time from now on!)
4	June 2	The Classification of Languages; Aboriginal Languages of Canada	Chapter 7; Chapter 9	iClicker: Second check
5	June 9	Writing and Language	Chapter 15	Midterm 1 (75 minutes); will cover Chapter 1, 7, 9 and 16; and lecture notes of week 1, 2, 3 and 4.
6	June 16	Review of Midterm 1 First Language Acquisition	Chapter 10	iClicker Quiz 1
7	June 23	Second Language Acquisition	Chapter 11	iClicker Quiz 2
8	June 30	Brain and Language	Chapter 13	iClicker Quiz 3
9	July 7	Psycholinguistics I	Chapter 12	Midterm 2 (75 minutes); Will cover Chapter 10, 11, 13 and 15; and lecture notes of week 5, 6, 7 and 8.
10	July 14	Review of Midterm 2 Psycholinguistics II	Chapter 12	iClicker Quiz 4
11	July 21	Language and Society I	Chapter 14	iClicker Quiz 5
12	July 28	Language and Society II	Chapter 14 + Article from SFU Library (link is given on Canvas)	iClicker Quiz 6
13	August 4	Review for Final Exam	All materials above	Review through iClickers

Required Readings and Materials:

- **Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction** by William O'Grady and John Archibald. 8th edition. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-13-404679-2 (loose leaf version, no companion website access code) or ISBN: 978-0-321-83615-1 (more expensive paperback version, no companion website access code). Either version is okay.
- **Note:** The textbook can also be purchased with an access code to the companion website, which gives you access to online materials for the course (study guides for chapters, audio files, additional exercises and information). You are NOT required to access these materials for the course but some students find them helpful. It is your own decision whether you want to buy the book with or without the access code.
- The textbook is available for purchase at the SFU Bookstore.
- The textbook is also on reserve at SFU Bennett library (2-hour loan period).
- Other editions of the textbook CANNOT be used.
- Different chapters of the SAME textbook are used in LING 220 in Summer 2016 (and also in subsequent semesters) – so you can get one textbook, and use it in two courses ☺
- Other required readings will be available for free to SFU students either through the course Canvas site or from the SFU Library's electronic journals.
- **iClicker** (either the original or version 2 will work). Available from the SFU bookstore (Burnaby campus).
- Lecture notes (will be posted on Canvas).
- This syllabus.

Course Grade:

Component	Weight
Participation	5%
iClicker quizzes	5%
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	30%
Final Exam	35%

The course grade is based on credit earned, according to the weightings mentioned above. Final letter course grades will be computed from percentage scores on participation, five iClicker quizzes and three exams. The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. There is no university-wide standard scale. An instructor adopts a grade scale appropriate to the level and content of the course.

A+	96-100%	B+	81-85%	C+	66-70%	D	50-55%
A	91-95%	B	76-80%	C	61-65%	F	0-49%
A-	86-90%	B-	71-75%	C-	56-60%		

Completion of all course-related grading components is necessary for students to receive a final grade in the course.

Exam Schedule:

Exam Type	Date and Time	Location
Midterm 1	June 9 (Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm)	RCB Images Theatre
Midterm 2	July 7 (Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm)	RCB Images Theatre
Final Exam	August 11 (Thursday, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm)	TBA

Exam Coverage:

There will be two midterms and one final exam. The first midterm covers materials from weeks 1 through 4 inclusive; the second midterm covers materials from weeks 5 through 8 inclusive. The final exam is cumulative, and covers all materials from the start of the course until the end. More detail on the midterms and final exam will be provided throughout the semester. The exams include materials from three components: the required readings, lecture notes and class discussions.

Exam Policy:

There is no make-up exam for a missed midterm. A missed test equals 0% unless:

1. You are ill on the day of the exam.
2. You have told me so before the exam (via e-mail).
3. You subsequently provide me with a medical note justifying your absence. The only medical form I accept is the SFU Certificate of Illness, downloadable from the SFU website (<http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/students/health/pdf/SSFU%20HCS%20Ad12120314070.pdf>). If you need it, print it out and have your doctor complete it.

Students will not be allowed to use the washroom during exams. On midterm days, we will have class after we write the midterm exam.

Participation and iClicker Quizzes:

In order to monitor participation in class and grade in-class quizzes, we will be using iClickers. In addition, we will use the iClickers in class to review materials and stimulate discussion. If you don't own one, you will have to purchase it from the SFU bookstore. Please bring it to class every time starting with week 3. At the beginning of the semester, register it with this course. Detailed instructions on how participation points are calculated will be provided during the lecture.

iClicker quizzes policy: Of the six iClicker quizzes for each student, the lowest iClicker score will be dropped before the final course grade is calculated. That is, the iClicker grade is comprised of each student's *FIVE* best iClicker quizzes (i.e., each quiz counts 1.00%). A missed iClicker quiz equals 0% – excuses for missing a quiz (e.g., forgetting to bring your iClicker, no batteries, illness, etc.) are not accepted. However, given the drop-the-lowest-quiz policy, each student has the flexibility to miss one iClicker quiz (due to illness or other reasons) without having a negative effect on their grade. It is therefore recommended that students should not miss a quiz unless there is a good reason to do so. See “Schedule of Topics, Readings and Events” above for the iClicker quiz dates.

Grade Appeals:

If a student wishes to contest the marking of a graded course item, the instructor can agree to remark their 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 IV.2. Grade appeals must be made in writing. The only reason a grade change will be made is if there is an arithmetic error, or if it has been determined that the graded item deserves a lower grade or a higher grade after it has been remarked.

The following **are not reasons for reconsideration of a grade:** (a) The student is on probation; (b) the student wants to get into Business or any other program; (c) the student worked hard, and thinks this should be a factor; (d) the student does not like the grade scale; or (e) the student's score is x% below the next grade, and would like the instructor to ignore the difference.

Contact Policies:

Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor about their progress in the course and other course-related matters. Students are welcome to:

- bring up questions in lecture
- post questions on the Canvas discussion board
- visit the instructor during the assigned office hours
- set up an appointment for a time that is convenient both to them and the instructor
- contact the instructor by phone during office hours

Students can also communicate with the instructor through email. I can only respond to questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. Questions requiring longer replies should be asked in class or during office hours. If you are sick and need to miss an exam, please do send me an e-mail message. If you email me, please follow these guidelines **or I will not respond**:

- **Put LING 100 in the subject line (title)**
- **Provide your full name and student number**
- **Edit your message for tone and clarity**

Please don't expect an instant response. It may take a few days to receive a response. Please also contact me if you have an extended period of illness which requires you to miss more than one week of class.

Other Policies:

1. 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.
2. Students will be responsible for all materials covered in the assigned readings and lectures.
3. Students are expected to **bring the lecture notes to class**, and have **read all assigned readings before class**. Because many students will be learning about a new field of study in this class, some of the materials and concepts may seem fairly complex. Therefore, students should read assigned readings, and go over the lecture notes multiple times.
4. Students are expected to **bring their iClickers to class starting with week 3**.
5. Students will be respectful of other students and the instructor. In particular, **students will not talk while the instructor or another student is contributing to the class**. Please **turn off cell phones and other noisy devices** (alarms, laptop speakers, etc.) that will cause a disruption in the class. In the event that disruptive behaviour occurs in the class, appropriate penalties will be imposed.

Students should familiarize themselves with the **Linguistics Department's Standards** on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at:

http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-standards.html#main_content_text

6. **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 SFU website (try here: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html>). Please **complete the library's plagiarism tutorials** on the SFU website (try here: <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial>).

If a student is found guilty of plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty on a graded course component (e.g., participation, quizzes, exam), an academic dishonesty report will be written for that student. This report is filed in the department. The student receives a grade of zero for that course component. A grade of "FD" may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

7. Students requiring accommodations as a result of a **disability** must contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).