

**INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS
HUM 119**

Instructor:	Francesca Del Gobbo	Lecture:	M W 10:30 – 11:55
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Office hours:	M W 12 - 1 pm and by appointment		

About this course:

Linguistics is the formal study of language as a faculty of the mind. This course provides insights into the nature of human language, surveys the different fields within linguistics and introduces methods of linguistic analysis. In particular, we will study how sounds are produced and what features they share (phonetics) and how sounds pattern together in various languages (phonology). We will look at the structure of words (morphology) and of sentences (syntax), and we will study meaning relationships across words and sentences (semantics). Depending on the interests of the students, we will conclude with one of the following topics: neurolinguistics, language acquisition, or language variation (geographical and social).

Your responsibilities:

- Carefully study the assigned readings both before and after the relevant lecture.
- Attend lectures, including the first one, ask questions and participate in class.
- Complete two exams, a series of homework assignments and a term paper.
 - Homework and exams will be problem sets, based on material from lectures and/or the textbook.
 - Each homework assignment will be posted on the course website (TBA) one week before its due date and must be turned in during the relevant lecture.
 - Your term paper needs to be 4 to 6 pages long (single-spaced, 12 pt. type). As for its content, you have two options:
 1. You can compare two languages you know (your native language and another language that you have some personal experience with);
 2. You can explore a topic from some domain not specifically discussed in lecture or the assigned readings (but for which some of the readings and/or the lecture material will likely be useful); or you can extend, in some significant way, a topic from a domain that was discussed in lecture and in the assigned readings.

In each case, you should consult with me for approval (further details will be provided during the quarter).

Grading Criteria:

5 homework assignments @ 5% each = 25%
2 exams: Midterm @ 25 % and Final @ 30% = 55%
Final paper = 20%

Text: Ralph Fasold and Jeff Connor-Linton (eds.) (2006)
An Introduction to Language and Linguistics. Cambridge University Press.

Academic Integrity and Collaboration Policy

You are encouraged to discuss problems in the homework assignments with your classmates, but you cannot share answers. This means that you need to write up your solutions to the given problems by yourself. No collaboration is allowed during the exams. As for the term paper, you may consult any sources but plagiarism is unacceptable, and sources must be cited.

Please, consult the current Caltech's Honor Code Handbook at the following link:
http://www.deans.caltech.edu/PDF/Honor_code_handbook-web0809.pdf

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Work Due
<i>1st</i>	03/30 04/01	Some universal properties of language Phonetics: Overview and Articulators Phonetics: Places, Manners and IPA	Introd., pp. 1-11 Chap.1, pp. 13-18 Chap.1, pp. 18-22	
<i>2nd</i>	04/06 04/08	Phonetics: Consonants and Vowels Phonetics: Suprasegmentals and Syllable Structure	Chap.1, pp. 22-28 Chap.1, pp. 28-31	HW #1
<i>3rd</i>	04/13 04/15	Phonology: Phonemes vs. Allophones Phonology: Phonotactic/Allomorphy	Chap.1, pp. 38-41 Chap.1, pp. 41-44	HW #2
<i>4th</i>	04/20 04/22	Phonology: Types of Alternations Phonology: Rules and Representations	Chap.1, pp. 44-47 Chap.1, pp. 47-50	HW #3
<i>5th</i>	04/27 04/29	Morphology: Allomorphy/Operations Morphology: Derivational Morph.	Chap.2, pp. 55-72 Chap.2, pp. 72-77	
<i>6th</i>	05/04 05/06	Morphology: Compounding and Inflectional Morphology Syntax: Project, Merge and Adjoin	Chap.2, pp. 77-85 Chap.3, pp. 97-109	Midterm
<i>7th</i>	05/11 05/13	Syntax: Movement and Deletion Syntax: Finiteness and recursion; Restrictions	Chap.3, pp. 109-111 Chap.3, pp. 111-120	HW #4
<i>8th</i>	05/18 05/20	Meaning: Arguments, thematic roles, quantification Meaning: Extensionality vs. Intensionality/ Pragmatics	Chap.4, pp. 137-152 Chap.4, pp. 152-163	HW #5
<i>9th</i>	05/25 05/27	Holiday (to be determined)		
<i>10th</i>	06/01 06/03	(to be determined) (to be determined)		Paper¹
<i>Final</i>	06/12	Final Exam due (11 am in my office)²		

¹ Seniors can turn their paper in the same day as the other students (during my office hour), or earlier, if they prefer.

² For seniors, the deadline is June 5th, at 11 am in my office.