



UNSW
SYDNEY

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LING5026

The Structure of Language

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Mengistu Amberber	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au	Wednesdays 2pm-3pm and by appointment	MB241	9385 2299

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

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Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Linguistics*

This course is an introduction to linguistics (the scientific study of language) and focuses on the traditional core areas of language structure including: the sound system (phonetics and phonology), morphology (word structure), syntax (clause and sentence structure), and meaning (semantics and pragmatics). You will have the opportunity to work with linguistic data from English and a wide range of different languages. You will learn to analyse language using appropriate linguistic concepts and terminology and to argue the merits of that analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply the techniques of phonetics/phonology to transcription and data analysis.
2. Analyse the morphological structure of words and clauses/sentences.
3. Explain semantic concepts and distinctions.
4. Analyse linguistic data and argue the merits of the analysis.

Teaching Strategies

This is a core cognate course in the Linguistics postgraduate program and provides an introduction to general linguistics.

The weekly seminars are divided into two parts. In the first part, basic concepts and theoretical issues are presented within the traditional domains of language structure including phonology, grammar, and semantics. In the second part, various problems and data sets are presented and discussed in an interactive manner and students are encouraged to contribute to the discussion. The tutorials provide the opportunity for an in-depth examination of linguistic data (drawn from a wide range of languages), with particular focus on creative problem-solving skills in a collaborative environment.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Class Test I	30%	Week 5	2,4
Class test II	30%	Week 8	1,4
Take home problem set	40%	03/05/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Class Test I

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: 40 minute test covering the content of lectures and tutorials. You will receive individual feedback.

Assessment 2: Class test II

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: 40 minute test covering the content of lectures and tutorials. You will receive individual feedback.

Assessment 3: Take home problem set

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: This is a take-home assignment which covers all the major topics of the course. A problem set is a series of data sets designed such that students apply linguistic concepts and analytical frameworks to account for linguistic phenomena. Approximately 1800 words. You will receive individual feedback. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Submission notes: The take-home problem set is handed out one week prior to its due date.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of Tutorials will result in the award of fail grade.

In tutorials, you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	Introduction and Morphology (I).
	Tutorial	Introduction to the study of language; some linguistic puzzles. Detailed instruction for each week's tutorial tasks, activities and expectation will be available on Moodle. You must consult Moodle regularly for updates
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	Morphology (II)
	Tutorial	Morphology exercises.
	Online Activity	Morphological typology.
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Syntax (I)
	Tutorial	Morphology and Syntax exercises.
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Syntax (II) and Semantics (I)
	Tutorial	Syntax and Semantics exercises.
	Online Activity	Syntactic typology.
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	Semantics (II) and Phonetics (I)
	Tutorial	Semantics and Phonetics exercises.
	Online Activity	Semantic typology. Phonetic exercises.
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Phonetics (II) and Phonology (I)
	Tutorial	Phonetics exercises.
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Phonology (II).
	Tutorial	Phonetics and Phonology exercises.
	Online Activity	Phonetics and Phonology exercises.
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Phonology (III).
	Tutorial	Phonology exercises.
	Online Activity	Phonological typology and phonology exercises.
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Phonology and grammar interaction.
	Tutorial	Exercises on phonology/grammar interaction.
	Online Activity	Exercises on phonology/grammar interaction and Prosodic phonology.
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Lecture	Summary and revision of basic concepts.

	Tutorial	General discussion questions on the language sciences. NB. For tutorials that fall on the Thursday Anzac public holiday, the relevant tutorial activities can be accessed via Moodle.
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Resources

Prescribed Resources

Required textbook: Fromkin, V. et al. 2018. *An Introduction to Language, 9th Australian/New Zealand edition*, Cengage.

Websites: Ethnologue; UCLA phonetics lab

An extensive list of additional electronic resources is provided in Moodle. You must consult Moodle regularly for updates.

Recommended Resources

Books: *The stuff of thought: Language as a window into human nature*.

An extensive list of additional resources is provided in Moodle. You must consult Moodle regularly for updates.

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them.

Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged students complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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