



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# LING5026

## The Structure of Language

Semester One // 2018

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Mengistu Amberber	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au	Thursday, 2pm-3pm, or 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 - 4:45pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: [hal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

### Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

### Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/>

## 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.

### At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

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%	The test is given during the tutorial times in Week 6 (11 April/12 April).	2,4
Class test II	30%	The test is given during the tutorial times in Week 11 (16 May/17 May)	1,4
Take home problem set	40%	01/06/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Class Test I

**Start date:**

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

### Assessment 2: Class test II

**Start date:**

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

### Assessment 3: Take home problem set

**Start date:**

**Length:** Approximately 1800 words

**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.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- \* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- \* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- \* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

\* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

## 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 information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

**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>)

# Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

## Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 26 February - 4 March	Lecture	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><i>Introducing the course; linguistic knowledge; language universals; animal 'languages'</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 1</i></p>
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Lecture	<p><b>Morphology (Part I)</b></p> <p><i>Basic morphological concepts; rules of word formation</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 3</i></p>
	Tutorial	<p><b>Chapter 1 What is Language?</b></p> <p>Exercise 1: Knowledge of sound sequences</p> <p>Exercise 2: Grammaticality judgments</p> <p>Exercise 3: Onomatopoeic words</p> <p>Exercise 4: Signs and communication</p> <p><b>(Exercises are from the textbook. Detailed instruction for each week's tutorial tasks, activities and expectation will be available on Moodle. You must consult Moodle regularly for updates).</b></p>
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Lecture	<p><b>Morphology (Part II)</b></p> <p><i>Morphological analysis</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 3</i></p>
	Tutorial	<p><b>Chapter 3 Morphology</b></p> <p>Exercise 1: Mental lexicon</p>

		<p>Exercise 2: Morphological boundary</p> <p>Exercise 3: Morphological categories</p> <p>Exercise 4: Morphological categories</p>
Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Lecture	<p><b>Syntax (Part I)</b></p> <p><i>Sentence structure; constituency and grammatical categories</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 4</i></p>
	Tutorial	<p><b>Chapter 3 Morphology</b></p> <p>Exercise 5: Swedish</p> <p>Exercise 6: Cebuano</p> <p>Exercise 7: Dutch</p> <p>Exercise 8: Swahili</p>
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Lecture	<p><b>Syntax (Part II)</b></p> <p><i>Transformational rules</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 4</i></p>
	Tutorial	<p><b>Chapter 4: Syntax</b></p> <p>Exercise 1: Linguistic knowledge</p> <p>Exercise 2: Recursion</p> <p>Exercise 3: Ambiguity</p> <p>Exercise 4: Constituent structure</p>
Break: 2 April - 8 April		
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Lecture	<p><b>Semantics (Part I)</b></p> <p><i>Lexical semantics: lexical relations and semantic features</i></p> <p><b>Reading</b></p> <p><i>Chapter 5</i></p>
	Tutorial	<p><b>In-class test (I)</b></p> <p><b>The class test is given during the tutorial times</b></p>

		(11 April/12 April). You must attend your regular tutorial.
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Lecture	<b>Semantics (Part II)</b> <i>Deixis; Conversational maxims; speech act</i> <b>Reading</b> <i>Chapter 5</i> <b>Phonetics (Part I)</b> <i>Sound segments; articulatory phonetics</i> <b>Reading</b> <i>Chapter 6</i>
	Tutorial	<b>Chapter 5: Semantics and Pragmatics</b> Exercise 4: Semantic ambiguity [(a) – (e)] Exercise 7: Semantic properties [(a) – (e)] Exercise 9: Antonymy Exercise 12: Thematic roles
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April	Lecture	<b>No Lecture; Public holiday (25 April)</b> Reading/exercises - online resources (details provided in Moodle).
	Tutorial	<b>No tutorial</b> Reading/exercises - online resources (details provided in Moodle)
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Lecture	<b>Phonetics (Part II)</b> <i>More on articulatory phonetics; prosody</i> <b>Reading</b> <i>Chapter 6</i>
	Tutorial	<b>Chapter 6: Phonetics</b> Exercise 3: Phonetic Transcription [(a)-(g)] Exercise 6: Phonetic descriptions

		Exercise 7: Phonetic features Exercise 14: Rounded front vowels
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Lecture	<b>Phonology (Part I)</b> <i>Phonemes; distinctive features</i> <b>Reading</b> <i>Chapter 7</i>
	Tutorial	<b>Chapter 7: Phonology</b> Exercise 1: Minimal pairs Exercise 3: Korean (I) Exercise 4: Korean (II)
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Lecture	<b>Phonology (Part II)</b> <i>Rules of phonology; phonological analysis</i> <b>Reading</b> <i>Chapter 7</i>
	Tutorial	<b>In-class test (II)</b> <b>The class test is given during the tutorial times (16 May/17 May). You must attend your regular tutorial.</b>
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Lecture	<b>Summary and conclusion</b> Revision of basic concepts
	Tutorial	<b>Chapter 7: Phonology</b> Exercise 5: Southern Kongo Exercise 7: Palatalisation Exercise 16: Ojibwa
Week 13: 28 May - 3 June	Lecture	No lecture in Week 13.
	Tutorial	<b>Chapter 7: Phonology</b> Exercise 17: Burmese Exercise 21: Japanese Exercise 24: German

## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

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

### Recommended Resources

- Website – Ethnologue
- Book – Language: Its Structure and Use (1997)
- Book – The Stuff of Thought (2007)

**An extensive list of online 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.

### Image Credit

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### CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G