Linguistics 170D: Introduction to Linguistics
Washington University in St. Louis, Fall 2017

Instructor
Kristen Greer, Ph.D.
kagreer@wustl.edu
Office: Psychology 402G
Office hours: MW 2:30-3:30p

Course meetings
MW 4:10-5:30, Mallinckrodt 305

Recommended text
Language Files, 11th or 12th ed.

Course content and purpose
This course is an introduction to the theory and methods of Linguistics. We will discuss the nature and form of grammar, focusing especially on its universal properties. To do this, we will analyze the phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic structures of English (primarily) and a range of other languages. We will also briefly survey topics such as how languages vary and how language is encoded and processed in the brain.

Grade breakdown
Homework 30% (7 total, with 1 dropped = 6 at 5% each)
Quizzes 10% (8 total, with 2 dropped = ~1.5% each)
Midterm 25%
Final 35%

Homework and reading
Seven homework assignments will be administered online through Blackboard (bb.wustl.edu). The online format is designed to facilitate interaction with various online resources on linguistics (articles, web pages, YouTube videos, TED talks). The assignments will be lengthy and fairly challenging, but as soon as you submit an attempt, you will be able to access feedback on many (though not all) of the questions. You can use this to modify your work before submitting the assignment again. You are allowed unlimited submissions with no penalty, but only your last submitted assignment will be graded. If you experience any difficulty working with the online system, it is your responsibility to let me know well in advance of the due date. With a few exceptions, assignment questions will be graded for correctness. The lowest assignment score will be dropped.

Because of the length of the assignments and the resources embedded therein, there will be no required textbook reading. Language Files is an excellent resource to review course concepts in a book format; suggested readings from this text (both the 11th and 12th editions) are paired with the course topics in the Schedule (bottom of p. 2).

Quizzes
Eight quizzes will be administered in class on random dates throughout the semester. These quizzes will be very brief and will include only very basic comprehension questions about the current day’s lecture. There are no make-up quizzes; instead, the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Exams
There will be two in-class exams: a midterm (Wed., Oct. 11, 4:10-5:30p) and a final (Fri., Dec. 15, 6-8p). Each will consist of 30-50 multiple-choice questions and 4-6 written questions. The questions will be similar in type and difficulty to the questions on the homework assignments. The midterm will cover topics up to and including morphology, and the final will be cumulative (but with significant emphasis on topics covered after the midterm). There are no early or make-up exams.

Office hours/E-mail
I will hold regular office hours at the times listed above. I am also happy to clarify questions about course content or logistics via email, and I typically respond within 24 hours. Certain questions may be difficult to address over email, however, and in such cases, I will ask you to bring up your question during class or office hours. Note that if you use a non-wustl email address, you must identify yourself by name (and, if requested, student ID number) in the text of your email.
Blackboard announcements
I use the Announcements feature on Blackboard to communicate with the class on a fairly regular basis. Schedule changes, homework changes, extra office hours, and test information will be posted here. You are responsible for checking this site consistently for these announcements (note that you can configure Blackboard to send you a daily email alerting you when an announcement has been posted).

Academic integrity
I have strict policies on plagiarism and cheating (as does the university; see https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/). While I encourage you to work with others on homework assignments and to use any online resources you find helpful, you must write up your answers individually and using your own words. If you use a source of any kind (friend, online resource, text), you must attribute your source appropriately using some standard set of citation guidelines (e.g. those found here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/). If any part of an assignment is worded improbably similar either to some other student’s work or to some existing resource without citation, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If this happens to you more than once, you will be reported to the university. If you cheat on an exam, you will fail the exam and be reported to the university.

Schedule of topics, readings, and exams+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading (LF11 or LF12)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28, 30</td>
<td>Introduction: What is language? Why study it?</td>
<td>1.1-1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Labor day—No class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Language v. communication</td>
<td>14.1, 14.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 11, 13, 18</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>2.1-2.3, 2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20, 25, 27</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2, 4, 9</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>4.1-4.5 (Skip 4.2.3)</td>
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Weds., Oct. 11 (4:10-5:30p) | Midterm Exam
Oct. 16   | Fall break—No class!                      |
Oct. 18, 23, 25, 30 | Syntax                                   | 5.3-5.4                |
Nov. 1, 6, 8, 13   | Semantics                                 | 6.1-6.4; KG’s notes on semantics |
Nov. 15   | Pragmatics                                 | 7.2-7.4.2              |
Nov. 20   | Language acquisition (Online lecture)     |
Nov. 22   | Thanksgiving break—No class!             |
Nov. 27, 29 | Language variation and change             | 10.1, 10.3.2-3, 13.1, 13.2, 13.7 |
Dec. 4    | Language and the brain                    | 9.1-9.2.5              |
Dec. 6    | Review                                    |
Fri., Dec. 15 (6:00-8:00p) | Final Exam (Mallinckrodt 305)

Homework schedule+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Posted to BB</th>
<th>Due (Sundays at 11:59p)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Introductory topics</td>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Phonetics</td>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Phonology</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Morphology</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Oct. 10 (Tues.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Syntax</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Nov. 5 (Online); Nov. 6 in class (Written exercises)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Semantics and pragmatics</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Nov. 15 in class (Written exercises); Nov. 19 (Online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Language variation/change and brain</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
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*Schedules subject to adjustments throughout the semester. Check Blackboard Announcements regularly for updates.

Version of August 17, 2017