

Anthropology/Linguistics 0300 YDE (2016-2017; Dr. Rhonda Dubec)
Introduction to Language: Syllabus

A. PURPOSE

This course provides a general introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of language. It surveys the structure, acquisition, functions, and social uses of language as well as its historical origins and development.

Main topics include the following:

- the distinctive nature of the human communication system;
- the subsystems of linguistic knowledge, i.e. sound patterns (phonology), word-formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), and meaning (semantics);
- language acquisition (first and second);
- how language is processed (psycholinguistics) and language and the brain (neurolinguistics);
- the origins of language, historical change, and language families (historical linguistics);
- communication, cultural identity, language norms, geographical and social dialects, and the uses and abuses of language (sociolinguistics).

Though this course is a survey rather than an in-depth study of particular language issues, students acquire specific skills and knowledge that will lay the foundation for further and more focused language study in the future, e.g. IPA, treeing words & sentences, a working linguistic vocabulary. etc.

B. METHOD

This course is taught in a “lecture” and “workshop” format – adapted to the online environment. Students engage each module by doing the following:

- Read through any introduction given and the “lecture” notes provided
- Watch/listen to any linked/embedded AV resources
- Read through the relevant chapter of the text
- Do the Exercises at the end of each chapter
- Check the solutions provided online in two separate files – “Assigned Exercises from the Text” (core, essential, skill-/content-based questions), “Points to Ponder from Exercises in the Text” (questions that consider the topic under discussion in broader contexts)
- Learn the terminology provided in the glossary (terminology always features on quizzes and tests)

As in all university classes, the primary responsibility of learning rests with the student.

Accordingly, students are expected

- to read/watch the assigned material,
- to learn the relevant terminology for each concept,
- to apply their knowledge by working through the exercises at the end of each chapter to help consolidate their learning,
- to take the quizzes and tests on the assigned dates to earn their marks in this course.

C. **TEXT:** Victoria Fromkin et al. *An Introduction to Language*, 10th Ed.

D. CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Office:** BB 0029 E (Find it before you need it!)
- **Office Hours:** Fridays, 2:00-3:00
- **Phone Messages:** 343-8292 (English Dept.), 343-8529 (during office hours)
- **E-Mail:** rdubec@lakeheadu.ca
- N.B. Email within the D2L course site is the best way to contact me outside of office hours.

E. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT: Marks Distribution

The marks for this online version of Linguistics/Anthropology 0300 are spread evenly throughout the course.

1. Quizzes

There will be six online, open-book, open-note quizzes. Each will cover two chapters of the textbook.

- Each **chapter quiz** will be worth 10% of the final grade.
- Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 and 2): **Friday, September 23, 2016**
- Quiz #2 (Chapters 3 and 4): **Friday, October 28, 2016**
- Quiz #3 (Chapters 5 and 6): **Friday, November 25, 2016**
- Quiz #4 (Chapters 7 and 8): **Friday, February 3, 2017**
- Quiz #5 (Chapters 9 and 10): **Friday, March 10, 2017**
- Quiz #6 (Chapters 11 and 12): **Friday, March 31, 2017**

2. Term Tests

a. When Will the Term Tests Be?

There will be two end-of-term tests (online, open-book, open-note). These are scheduled during the regular exam period.

- Each **end-of-term test** is worth 20% of the final grade.
- The dates for these tests will appear on the official exam schedules.

b. What Will the Online Quizzes/Term Tests Be Like?

Each quiz and test will open for student response at 12:01 a.m. ET on the designated date and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. ET of the same test date.

- Students may do their quiz/test at any point within this time frame to best accommodate their schedules.
- **Note:** The cut-off point is firm: do not leave the quiz/test until too late in the evening.
- Quiz lengths will vary slightly, allowing one minute per mark for quizzes ranging from 60-120 minutes.
- **Note:** Short questions like true-or-false are worth only 0.25 or 0.5 and allow only 15 or 30 seconds for responses.

- Each end-of-term test will be two hours in length.

c. What Will Be Included on the Quizzes/Tests?

Material for all quizzes and tests will be drawn from the text, the end-of-chapter exercises (Assigned Exercises included), the glossaries, and the module information (lecture notes, unit readings, multimedia, text questions, etc.).

- The material is **cumulative**: a later chapter quiz may include several questions from earlier chapters as both review and reinforcement.

NOTE: Quizzes and tests must be written on the dates specified.

There are no make-up quizzes or tests.

Missed quizzes or tests will normally be awarded a grade of "0" (zero).

MARK THE QUIZ and TEST DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

(On very rare occasions, dire and documented circumstances do occur that may prevent you from writing a test or quiz.

- Please contact me ASAP if such a circumstance were to occur.
- Accommodations for make-up quizzes or tests may be made.
- Note, though, that the situation must be truly dire, and external documentation from an official and verifiable source (not, for instance, a note from a parent or partner) would be required.

Anthropology/Linguistics 0300 – Introduction to Language: Weekly Schedule

FALL TERM

Week	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities
1 Sept. 6-11	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to the course • to linguistics • to language 	Chapter 1: Text and module Post response to #11 on the discussion board (ongoing class project)
2 Sept. 12-18	Morphology: The Words of Language	Chapter 2: Text and module
3 Sept. 19-25	Morphology: The Words of Language	Chapter 2: Text and module Sept. 23: Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 & 2)
4 Sept. 26-Oct. 2	Syntax: The Sentence Patterns of Language	Chapter 3: Text and module
5 Oct. 3-9	Syntax: The Sentence Patterns of Language	Chapter 3: Text and module
6 Oct. 10-16	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES	
7 Oct. 17-23	Semantics: The Meaning of Language	Chapter 4: Text and module
8 Oct. 24-Oct. 30	Semantics: The Meaning of Language	Chapter 4: Text and module Oct. 28: Quiz #2 (Chapters 3 & 4)
9 Oct. 31-Nov. 6	Phonetics: The Sounds of Language	Chapter 5: Text and module
10 Nov. 7-13	Phonetics: The Sounds of Language	Chapter 5: Text and module
11 Nov. 14-20	Phonology: The Sound Patterns of Language	Chapter 6: Text and module
12 Nov. 21-27	Phonology: The Sound Patterns of Language	Chapter 6: Text and module Nov. 25: Quiz #3 (Chapters 5 & 6)
13 Nov. 28-Dec. 5	Catch-up, review, and study for Term Test	Chapters 1-6

END-OF-TERM TEST: Scheduled during the regular Fall exam period (Dec. 8-18).

WINTER TERM

Week	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities
1 Jan. 9-15	Sociolinguistics: Language in Society	Chapter 7: Text and module
2 Jan. 16-22	Sociolinguistics: Language in Society	Chapter 7: Text and module
3 Jan. 23-29	Historical Linguistics: Language Change: The Syllables of Time	Chapter 8: Text and module
4	Historical Linguistics: Language Change: The	Chapter 8: Text and module