



Lakehead University – Year 2017-2018

Course code: LING/ANTH 0300 YDE – days: online times: n/a- Room: n/a
Labs (hours per week): n/a

Introduction to Language

Professor: Dr. Rhonda Dubec

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Office hours: By appointment

Description of the course:

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.

Objectives of the course:

Students who actively engage the content of this course will, by the end of their study, be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate understanding of the fundamental concepts of language study
- Explain human language as a complex biological system as well as a social construct

- Transliterate words and longer texts to and from IPA and English
- Analyse the phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of words and longer passages in English as well as world languages
- Compare first language acquisition to second-language learning in terms of manner, order, and stages of acquisition
- Explain the relation between language and the brain, based on research
- Describe language in terms of code and use
- Trace out and provide explanations for the process of linguistic change in time and space

Methodology:

This course is taught online through the use of HTML multimedia files, videos, PPTs, games, quizzes, and discussions.

Books used:

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

Marks distribution:

There are six online, open-book, open-note quizzes. Each covers two chapters of the textbook and is worth 10% of the final grade.

There are also two term tests during the official exam period, each being cumulative and covering all the preceding content.

- Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 and 2, 10%): Friday, September 22, 2017
- Quiz #2 (Chapters 3 and 4, 10%): Friday, October 27, 2017
- Quiz #3 (Chapters 5 and 6, 10%): Friday, November 24, 2017
- Quiz #4 (Chapters 7 and 8, 10%): Friday, February 2, 2018
- Quiz #5 (Chapters 9 and 10, 10%): Friday, March 9, 2018
- Quiz #6 (Chapters 11 and 12, 10%): Thursday, March 29, 2018 [NOTE: This test is on THURSDAY, not FRIDAY!!]
- Term Test #1 (Chapters 1-6, 20%), Date TBA
- Term Test #2 (Chapters 1-12, with emphasis on 7-12; 20%), Date TBA

**Calendar (subject to change)
First semester**

Week 1	Sept. 5-10 Introduction to the course, to linguistics, to language Ch. 1: "What Is Language?"	READ and WORK THROUGH: All files in "Important Information: START HERE" Chapter 1: Text & module POST response to #11 on the discussion board (ongoing class project)
2	Sept. 11-17 Ch. 2: "Morphology: The Words of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 2: Text & module
3	Sept. 18-24 Ch. 2: "Morphology"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 2: Text & module Friday, Sept. 22: Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 & 2)
4	Sept. 25-Oct. 1 Ch. 3 "Syntax: The Sentence Patterns of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 3: Text & module
5	Oct. 2-8 Ch. 3 "Syntax"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 3: Text & module
6	Reading week	
7	Oct. 16-22 "[Semantics]: The Meaning of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 4: Text & module
8	Oct. 23-29 Ch. 4: "[Semantics]: The Meaning of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 4: Text & module Friday, Oct. 27: Quiz #2 (Chapters 3 & 4)
9	Oct. 30-Nov. 5 Ch. 5: "Phonetics: The Sounds of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 5: Text & module
10	Nov. 6-12 Ch. 5: "Phonetics"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 5: Text & module
11	Nov. 13-19 Ch. 6: "Phonology: The Sound Patterns of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 6: Text & module
12	Nov. 20-26 Ch. 6: "Phonology"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Friday, Nov. 24: Quiz #3 (Chapters 5 & 6)
13	Nov. 27-Dec. 4 Catch-up, review, and consolidate first-term knowledge	READ and WORK THROUGH: TERM TEST: During exam period (Chapters 1-6)

Second Semester

Week 1	Jan. 8-14 Ch. 7: "Sociolinguistics: Language in Society"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 7: Text & module
2	Jan. 15-21 Ch. 7: "Sociolinguistics: Language in Society"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 7: Text & module
3	Jan. 22-28	READ and WORK THROUGH:

	Ch. 8: "[Historical Linguistics]: Language Change: The Syllables of Time"	Chapter 8: Text & module
4	Jan. 29-Feb. 4 Ch. 8: "[Historical Linguistics]: Language Change: The Syllables of Time"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 8: Text & module Friday, Feb. 2: Quiz #4 (Chapters 7 & 8)
5	Feb. 5-11 Ch. 9: "Language Acquisition"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 9: Text & module
6	Feb. 12-18 Ch. 9: "Language Acquisition"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 9: Text & module
7	Reading week	
8	Feb. 26-Mar. 4 Ch. 10: [Neurolinguistics]: Language process and the Brain"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 10: Text & module
9	Mar. 5-11 Ch. 10: [Neurolinguistics]: Language process and the Brain"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 10: Text & module Friday, Mar. 9: Quiz #5 (Chapters 9 & 10)
10	Mar. 12-18 Ch. 11: "Computer Processing of Human Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 11: Text module NOTE: Only one week is allotted to this chapter.
11	Mar. 19-25 Ch. 12: "[Orthography:] Writing – The ABCs of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 12: Text and module
12	Mar. 26-Apr. 1 Ch. 12: "[Orthography:] Writing – The ABCs of Language"	READ and WORK THROUGH: Chapter 12: Text and module Thursday, Mar. 29: Quiz #6 (Chapters 11 & 12) NOTE: This test is on THURSDAY, not Friday!
13	Apr. 2-6 Catch-up, review for term test, and consolidate the full year's knowledge	READ and WORK THROUGH: TERM TEST: During exam period (Chapters 1-12, with emphasis on Chapters 7-12)

Code of conduct for students in the course

- Check your Desire2Learn/MyCourseLink page on a regular basis to obtain posted information, documents and exercises, and to study regularly and complete the workbook exercises that correspond to the lessons given in class. If you have difficulties accessing your online course, please contact helpdesk@lakeheadu.ca.
- **Academic dishonesty**
Please, note that academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation) is considered a serious academic offense.
For more information, please go to:
<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>

<http://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/rights-and-responsibilities>

- Disrespectful comments during email exchanges or discussion posts between students or between students and the professor, as well as comments of a sexist, racist or homophobic nature or against all handicaps will not be tolerated.

Special Policy for LING/ANTH 0300

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 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.