

# Introduction to Linguistics

Linguistics 50 (Class Number: 70477), Summer 2015 (Session II)

## Core Information

**Instructor** Matt Wagers <http://people.ucsc.edu/mwagers>

email: [mwagers@ucsc.edu](mailto:mwagers@ucsc.edu)

office: 232 Stevenson

**Meetings** M/W 9:00am - 12:30pm in Hum & Soc Sci 350

July 27 - August 28, 2015

No discussion sections.

**Office Hours** Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

**Course web site** eCommons <http://ecommons.ucsc.edu/>

**Required text** Mihalicek, Vedana and Christin Wilson, eds. 2011. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. 11th Edition. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press. ISBN 081425179X [Paperback.]

Available for sale at Bay Tree Bookstore and online (~ \$40-\$45).

3 copies on reserve at McHenry Library <http://goo.gl/ND2CcY> for 2 hours and Overnight.

First-week readings will be available as PDF files on eCommons.

## Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the major areas of linguistics and to teach you to approach language from a scientific perspective. Accordingly, we will address the major areas of language structure:

- (1) **Phonetics and phonology**: how sounds/signs are produced and perceived; how they are put together into larger units, like syllables and words
- (2) **Morphology and syntax**: how words are formed and stored; how they are put together in larger expressions, like phrases and sentences
- (3) **Semantics and pragmatics**: how the meaning of expressions is related to their form and use in context

Because we will construe claims about language structure as claims about the structure of the mind - in the sense of Chomskyan linguistics and generative grammar - we will also study aspects of *language acquisition*, *language processing* and *language in the brain*, as well as *language contact and change*. This course is a survey, and it will prepare you to do further more in-depth work in Linguistics.

It fulfills two general education requirements:

- **SI** “Scientific Inquiry”: a course that focuses on the essential roles of observation, hypothesis, experimentation, and measurement in the sciences
- **IH** “Introduction to Disciplines, Humanities, and Arts”

## Requirements

### Take-home assessments (80%)

There will be an assignment attached to each course meeting. After each course meeting, an assignment will be published on eCommons. Your response must be submitted *by 9AM, the following Wednesday or 12 noon, the following Friday*. These assignments are distributed by me and submitted by you electronically on eCommons.

Because there are a total of 10 meetings, there are 10 assignments. To calculate your final grade, I will take your 8 best scores but *all assignments must be completed to receive a minimum C grade*.

### Participation (20%)

Because of its Summer Session schedule, this course will proceed quickly and in a concentrated format. Therefore it is **paramount** that you attend all meetings.

If you cannot attend a meeting because of illness or an unexpected emergency, you should email me at your earliest possible convenience to explain your absence. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for unexcused absences.

Please honor and respect the educational experience of your classmates. This includes arriving on time for class and staying focused and engaged with the course material.

3.5 hrs (210 minutes) is a long time for a single meeting. Accordingly we shall break class into 2 80-minute chunks with 1 20-minute break. For this to work, it is **CRUCIAL** that everyone be punctual, arriving at class and return from breaks ready to work on **time**. Here is the schedule we will aspire to (from Meeting 2 onward).

- 09:10am Part 1

- 10:30am First break
- 10:50am Part 2
- 12:10am Class finishes (instructor will remain 'til 12:30 for consultation)

Note that the class start time is 9:10AM - this will allow you time to settle yourself and prepare for the work ahead.

## Schedule

The general course outline is below, although it may change as pace and interest warrant. The readings, which index sections in the textbook, should be done in advance of the meeting on the date listed (with the exception of July 27).

Week	Date	Meeting	Topic	Reading
1	Jul 27	1	Language from a scientific perspective	1.0-1.6
	Jul 30	2	Speech sounds; IPA	2.1-2.5
2	Aug 3	3	IPA review; phonemes & allophones; phonological rules	3.0-3.3; 3.5
	Aug 5	4	phonological rules, cont'd; words & the lexicon	3.6, 4.0-4.1
3	Aug 10	5	morphological processes; typology; review	4.2, 4.3
	Aug 12	6	syntax (sentence structure)	5.0-5.4
4	Aug 17	7	semantics and pragmatics	6.0-6.4; 7.0-7.2
	Aug 19	8	language acquisition	8.0-8.5
5	Aug 24	9	language and the brain; production & perception	9.0-9.7
	Aug 26	10	language contact, change, multilingualism	12, 13

## Policies

You are expected to take responsibility for your own learning.

*Attend class.* You are responsible for material in your readings as well as those presented in lecture.

*Participate.* Ask questions and offer ideas in class.

*Communicate.* Never hesitate to get in touch. If you get into difficulty, it is entirely appropriate to seek help. Come by office hours, or send an email. Likewise, if you are having a problem that adversely affects your classroom participation, contact the instructor.

## Communication plan

I will communicate with the class via eCommons. I recommend you configure eCommons to forward any announcements to your email inbox - and to check it daily.

If you need to get in touch with me, either send me an email, or come to one of the 2 office hours. For email, here is my policy: (i) During the week, I aim to respond to messages as quickly as possible and within 3 hours; (ii) I usually do not check my mail after 9pm; (iii) Over the weekend, I will neither respond to messages - nor send any messages or announcements out - unless there is an emergency.

### **Academic Honesty**

The work you complete for this course must be your own work and must meet basic standards of honesty. Be sure and familiarize yourself with University policies and procedures related to Academic Integrity: [https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct). If I suspect academic dishonesty, I will comply with these procedures very strictly.

You are of course encouraged to discuss the issues that come up in the course with your classmates and others, but it is essential that the work you submit is your work and your work alone. For take-home assessments, I will also explicitly specify whether and to what extent you may work with others.

### **Summer Session Students with Disabilities**

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session (II). Contact DRC by phone at (831) 459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for more information.

### **Important Dates for Summer Session II**

See <http://summer.ucsc.edu/calendar/calendar-spreadsheet.html>.

- Enrollment Deadline: July 30
- Drop Deadline: August 3
- Withdrawal Period: Aug 4 - Aug 14
- Deadline to change grade option: Aug 7