ENGL 306A: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS
FALL 2019
(Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:50, St J1 3014)

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COURSE AIMS AND OUTCOMES
This course is an introduction to the field of linguistics. As linguistics is itself an entire
discipline (like political science or physics), that is a very tall order. We will at least touch on
almost all the major subfields in linguistics, including the history of language, sociolinguistics
and linguistic variation, and pragmatics. While our focus will be on the 'core' areas of
contemporary technical linguistics – phonology, morphology and syntax – we will also
examine broader questions about how language works, where it comes from, and the role it
has in social life. Wherever possible, we’ll also think about the relation between linguistics
and rhetoric, which is an older tradition of thinking about language.

My aim is to provide you with knowledge of linguistics that will help you with the rest of
your program, that will enrich your understanding of literature, rhetoric, and communication.
By the end of the course you should:

- Understand the basic shape of linguistics as a discipline and have a basic grasp of
  some of the philosophical and methodological issues facing linguists
- Be familiar and comfortable with a broad range of concepts in linguistics, which
  together cover most of the key subfields within the discipline
- Have a good grasp of basic concepts in phonology, morphology, syntax and the
  study of linguistic variation.
- Be able to analyse sentences and words grammatically.
- Be prepared for advanced or specialized study in linguistics
- Understand many of the key linguistic features of the English language.

READINGS:
There are no formal printed readings for the course; you’ll become acquainted with the
material through lectures and occasional on-line material I’ll assign during the semester.

Throughout the term I will provide links to websites that provide information and analysis
relevant to the topics on the course. You should look at these whenever you can: they will
help master the material on the course.

The PowerPoint presentations used in the lectures will be posted on the course LEARN site.
**CLASSES**

Because there are few readings, nearly all the material covered will be presented in class. Attendance is therefore essential. The class will be in lecture format, but questions and discussion are encouraged. There will be times when I ask the class to discuss an issue in groups and there will be times when I will want questions about the material from the class. The material is often quite technical: if you aren’t clear about what a term means or how we analyse something, ask about it in class (if you are confused, chances are someone else is as well).

**ASSESSMENT:**

The course is assessed on the basis of two midterm exams, given in class, and a final exam. The first midterm will cover the material we look at in weeks 1-5 (general questions in linguistics, phonetics, phonology and morphology). The second midterm will cover syntax, discourse theory and speech act theory. The final exam will cover all the material on the course.

First midterm  25%
Second midterm  25%
Final Exam      50%

If you fail to appear for an examination, you will be given a mark of 0 for that exam, unless you provide evidence of a medical condition that made it impossible to sit the exam or of an unforeseeable domestic crisis. Please note that the Final Examination period for Fall 2019 is December 6-21 and that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (this applies also to the midterm exams).

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**What is language?**

**September 5 (week 1)**

Thursday: What is language? How do we study it?

**The sounds of language (weeks 2-3)**

**September 10, 12**

Tuesday: What is linguistics?
Thursday: Phonetics

**September 17, 19**

Tuesday: Phonology
Thursday: Sound changes (and the history of languages)

**Words and morphemes: meanings, structure and history (weeks 4-5)**

**September 24, 26**

Tuesday: Morphology - derivational
Thursday: Morphology – inflectional
October 1, 3
Tuesday: Word structures – the classes of words
Thursday: Word meanings/Review

Midterm 1
Tuesday, October 8

Syntax, style, and discourse: combining words into sentences (weeks 6-9)

October 10
Thursday: Syntax

Reading week: October 14-18

October 22, 24
Tuesday: Syntax
Thursday: Syntax

October 29, 31
Tuesday: Syntax
Thursday: Some other versions of grammar

November 5
Tuesday: Language as discourse, speech act theory

Midterm 2
Thursday, November 7

Language and society (weeks 10-13)

November 12, 14
Tuesday: Linguistic variation: dialects
Thursday: Linguistic variation: sociolinguistics

November 19, 21
Tuesday: Linguistic variation: urban vernaculars, registers, code-switching
Thursday: Indexicality

November 26, 28
Tuesday: Language, origins, historical change
Thursday: Language and society

December 3
Tuesday: Review for final examination
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cross-listed course (requirement for all Arts courses)
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Check the Office of Academic Integrity website for more information.

Discipline
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Grievance
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health Support
All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On Campus
- Counseling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
• Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7
• Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
• Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
• Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
• OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts website
Download UWatloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)
Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement
We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory (PDF).

Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo
Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.