English

306A Introduction to Linguistics

1:00-2:20
Tuesday, Thursday, MC 4063

Hagey Hall 247, x5362
Hours: Tuesdays, 8:00 - 9:30; Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30
Home phone (Milton): (905) 876-3972
raha@uwaterloo.ca
http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~raha/

[rændiʃ herəs]

We study what it means to know and use a language: you need to know the sounds, the words, the way words group together, and how those word groups fit into a web of meaning. That's a lot just to get someone to pass you the salt or agree that the Leafs sucked last night, but you deploy those systems effortlessly every day. What's more, you know them pretty much the way you know how to breathe or swallow or ride a bike: at a below-the-surface level. At the surface, you don't know which of your consonants resonate out your nose, but you know it, because you always send the right ones out the nose. In this course, we're going to drag that knowledge to the surface, kicking and screaming.

[kʰɔːrs əpʰɪtəmɪj]

We're also going to see how that knowledge interacts with other, non-linguistic areas of cognition—in particular, perception, emotion, categorisation, abstraction processes, and reasoning—to get some purchase on the way we express and exchange ideas and thoughts through weird little noises or marks on a page or lines and circles on a screen, like these ones.

[rɛkwəʤər-ments]

Midterm I (9 October) 20%
Midterm II (6 November) 30%
Final (tba) 50%

Dirven and Verspoor, Cognitive exploration of language and linguistics. Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1998 (ISBN 155619 1987) and 2004 (ISBN 158811 4864). There are two editions, the second one with a few errors corrected and some other minor massaging. Either edition is fine for the
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*Cognitive exploration of language and linguistics* is on three-hour loan at the library.

Please have the required readings done before class, and be prepared to read them again after class, and, if you're not clear about something, ASK.
Although this course has the word *Introductory* in its title, because this is the first time most students learn about the field of linguistics and its result, **please do not make the mistake** of thinking it is a low-level course. It is a third-year course, with appropriate demands and expectations. Many students find it quite difficult.

The textbook will be supplemented very regularly with concepts and examples, and the lectures have a strongly cumulative structure. It is, therefore, **not a very good idea to miss class**. If you do, get notes, preferably from more than one person, so you can triangulate on what we did.

Familiarize yourself with **policy #71**, particularly with regard to **plagiarism** and other forms of **cheating**.

English 306A is a required course in the **Cognitive Science option**.

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**Course links and downloads (please report linkrot here)**

[Links]

**Answers to the textbook exercises here** (PDF on publisher's site)

Miscellaneous

**Get the SIL-Doulos font here**
(Casey Ho's PDF instructions for installing SIL-Doulos)

**Consonant and Vowel Charts**

**A FAQ for 306A**

**Word Categories.pdf**

**English Inflectional Morphemes.pdf**

**Forms of English be and pronouns.pdf**

**Klingon.pdf**

**Làadan.pdf**

**Lecture materials**
(Updated as the course proceeds)

Please note these files are developed for lecturing only, and made available for your convenience; they are not developed for home-studying, independent of the course, and they contain many redundancies, partial explanations, enigmatic notes, and so on—the sorts of things which depend on in-class lectures to clarify. They are made available only AFTER the relevant module has been taught.

**For onscreen viewing**

This list will include power-point show files (pps), which you can download and view on your own machine with

**For printing**

This list will include portable document format files (pdf), which you can download and view on your
MS PowerPoint (part of the MS Office suite), or with PowerPoint Viewer
(available in a free download from Microsoft). You can also print them off, of course, though that's probably a waste of resources.

own machine with Acrobat Reader (available in a free download from Adobe). You can use these files anyway you like, but they have small images of the slides I use in class, and they are meant to help you collate your notes.

Interactive Exercises

Kevin Russell’s phonetic transcription practice page
Compounding
Morphology
Syntax

Linguistics sites

Fields of linguistics
Linguistic Society of America FAQ
LINGUIST list site

Cognitive linguistic sites

Cognitive linguistics, the journal
Bert Peeters’s article on Cognitive Linguistics
Marjolijn Verspoor’s home page

Language pages

Klingon language page
I love languages page (formerly the Human languages page)

Phonetics and phonology sites

International Phonetics Association
Interactive phonemic lessons
IPA Help
IPA and ASCII alphabets (with sound)
Speech Animator
Interactive Articulation tutorial (Sammy)
The Virtual Talking Head (great videos)
The Phonetic Chart

Writing systems

Evolution of alphabets

Karen Chung's magnificent list o' links
Language and linguistics links

Miscellaneous

Online english grammar
Glossary of linguistics terms

[ʃɛdʒjuwl]

This is secret linguistic code for "schedule": it's a link.
## English 306A Fall 2008

### dejts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>tʰapɪks</th>
<th>rijdĩŋz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sept</td>
<td>Hello; how are you? Nice to meet you. This is linguistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>History of language</td>
<td>9. Language across time</td>
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<td>16 Sept</td>
<td>The nature of language</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sept</td>
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<td>1. The cognitive basis of language</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Sept</td>
<td>The nature of linguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sept</td>
<td>Words</td>
<td>2. What's in a word?</td>
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<td>30 Sept</td>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>3. Meaningful building blocks</td>
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<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>4. Putting concepts together</td>
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<td>7 Oct</td>
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<td>9 Oct</td>
<td>Midterm I</td>
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<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>4. Putting concepts together</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
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<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>5. The sounds of language</td>
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<td>28 Oct</td>
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<td>30 Oct</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
<td>6. Language, culture, and meaning</td>
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<td>4 Nov</td>
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<td>6 Nov</td>
<td>Midterm II</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
<td>6. Language, culture, and meaning</td>
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<td>13 Nov</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
<td>7. Doing things with words</td>
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<td>25 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>Review, discussion, exam preparation</td>
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