

LING 101.01
INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
Spring 2019

Class: MMWW 5656

Rooms: M NH 202 | W NH 201

	Instructor:	Teaching Assistant (TA):
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SYLLABUS

Course description:

The ability to speak and understand a language (this ability is often simply called Language) is unique to humans and, within the species, universally represented. It affords us, together with other faculties of the mind, the ability to achieve levels of abstract thinking as well as social organization that is unprecedented in the animal kingdom. Language is therefore one of the most characteristic features of the human species and its study is centrally important to understanding what it is to be human.

This course aims at introducing the basic principles and concepts in Linguistics as the study of human language, its scientific and systematic foundations. In this course, we will be exploring what it means to know a language, in terms of its structure, sound, and meaning. We will study the articulation and interaction of speech sounds, the formation of words, the structure of phrases and sentences, and the computation of sentence meaning.

Course materials:

TEXTBOOK: Fromkin, A.V., R. Rodman & N. Hyams. (2014). An Introduction to Language. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. (10th edition): I expect you to come to class having read the assigned pages.

CLASS NOTES Slides shown in class and posted on the course Moodle and documentaries shown in class.

MATERIAL SHARED ON MOODLE. DOCUMENTARY MOVIES SHOWN.

Make sure e-mails to your boun address reach you regularly since notifications in Moodle can only be sent to boun addresses.

Course Requirements:

1. **READINGS:** Read all assigned chapters (or parts thereof) carefully **before** class in order to understand the lectures and participate in class discussion.
2. **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Attendance is required and participation in class discussion will determine a portion of your grade (as indicated below).
3. **ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES.** Linguistics is best learned by doing problem sets. Throughout the semester, there will be **4 problem sets (3 assignments and one in class quiz)** based on the material in the textbooks and the lectures. Each of the assignments must be handed in by the beginning of class times on the dates specified on the schedule below. **No late submission will be accepted!** Participation and assignments/quizzes will account for 10% of your course grade.
4. **MIDTERM EXAMS:** There will be two midterm exams in the course of the semester each counting 25% of the course grade.
5. **FINAL EXAM:** A cumulative final exam will determine the remaining 40% of your grade. **Students who miss one of the two midterms will not be allowed to take the final exam. Moreover students whose average grade of the two midterms is less than 35 will not be admitted to the final exam either.**
6. **PS (PROBLEM SESSION) HOURS:** You will meet with the Teaching Assistant (TA) of the course regularly to do further practice and to discuss the questions you may have regarding the lectures and/or assignments. **Attendance is required.**

Evaluation:

Participation & assignments:	10%
Midterm 1:	25%
Midterm 2:	25%
Final:	40%

The passing grade for the course is 55. If you encounter any difficulty with the course material, contact the instructor and/or your TA for help and clarifications in a timely fashion. In the interest of fairness towards your fellow classmates, **NO extra credit work will be assigned and no exceptional excuses will be made to improve your grade after assignment due dates, midterms or the final exam.**

A note on cheating: again, in the interest of fairness towards the other students in the course, any student found or suspected of cheating during exams will be immediately reported to the disciplinary committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

A note on exam scheduling conflicts: it is each individual student's responsibility to keep track of possible scheduling conflicts with the scheduling of exams of different

