Introduction to Language

LIN200H1F, Fall 2013
Lecture: T7–9; OI G162
Tutorial: T5 or T6

Instructor: Derek Denis
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Sidney Smith Building, Office SS4055   Office hours: T 1–3, and by appointment

Course Description

LIN200 is a general-interest course about language. It serves as an introduction the field of linguistics, the formal study of human languages. The first half of the course will introduce the fundamental concepts in the study of human speech sounds (phonetics/phonology), word and sentence structure (morphology/syntax) and meaning (semantics/pragmatics). The second half of the course will be devoted to topics of interest in linguistics including language acquisition, language change, sociolinguistics, and language diversity.

Prerequisite: None
Exclusion: LIN100H1, ANT253H1
Distribution Requirement Status: Humanities
Breadth Requirement: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

Required Textbook

Linguistics For Dummies by Rose-Marie Déchaine, Strang Burton, Eric Vatikiotis-Bateson. (2012; John Wiley & Sons). Available at the University of Toronto Book Store, from the publisher, and from Amazon.

Course Website

This course uses Blackboard/Portal. To access announcements, homework assignments, and view your grades, etc., log in at portal.utoronto.ca with your UTORid and password. Please ensure that your utoronto e-mail address is updated and correct on ROSI so that you receive all course-related announcements. You are responsible for the content of these announcements.

Tutorials

Tutorials are a fundamental component of the course and attendance is required. Tutorials will take place on Tuesdays at 5PM or 6PM. Please see the tutorial schedule below. Tutorials will involve further discussion of concepts introduced in lecture through practice exercises and written responses. In addition, homework assignments will be collected and discussed during the tutorials. Failure to attend tutorials will seriously diminish a student's understanding and performance in this course. Participation marks partly depend on tutorial participation. **You must attend the tutorial you registered for on ROSI**.

Tutorial Schedule

Time	Tutorial	Place	TA
Tues. 5pm	T5101	SS 1086	Tomo
	T5102	LM 157	Chris
	T5103	RW 142	Élodie
Tues. 6pm	T5201	SS 1088	Tomo
	T5202	RW 143	Kaz
	T5203	RW229	Ross
	T5204	SS1070	Emily
	T5205	RW142	Élodie

Course Schedule

	Tutorial	Lecture Topic	Reading
Sept. 10	No tutorial	Introduction to linguistics	Ch. 1 & 2
Sept. 17	HW1 due; What you didn't know you knew about English.	Sounds 1: Phonetics	Ch. 3
Sept. 24	HW2 due; Phonetics practice	Sounds 1: Phonology	Ch. 4
Oct. 1	HW3 due; Phonology practice	Structures 1: Morphology	Ch. 5
Oct. 8	HW4 due; Morphology practice	Structures 2: Syntax	Ch. 6
Oct. 15	HW5 due; Syntax practice	Meaning: Semantics and Pragmatics	Ch. 7 & 8
Oct. 22	**No tutorial**	⋆⋆⋆ MIDTERM⋆⋆⋆	
Oct. 29	Proposal, Outline and Annotated Bibliography Due; Mid-Term Take-Up	Language Acquisition	Ch. 13
Nov. 5	Acquisition errors	Language Variation and Change 1: Historical Linguistics	Ch. 10
Nov. 12	**Fall Break, No tutorial**	**Fall Break, No Lecture**	n/a
Nov. 19	Full Draft due; Historical reconstruction	Language Variation and Change 2: Sociolinguistics and Dialects	Ch. 9
Nov. 26	Sociolinguistic Variables	Sociolinguistics cont.; Languages of Canada; Diversity and revitalization	Ch. 11 & 12
Dec. 3	Mini Paper due; Final Review	Language and the Internet	TBA

Evaluation

Mid-Term Test: 20%. Tuesday, Oct. 22. (Two hours, in lecture time, 7 to 9)

Assignments: 40%. All assignments due at the beginning of tutorial on specified date.

> Short Assignments (5) 20% in total. Your lowest marked assignment will be dropped.
> 1. What you didn't know you knew about English [due Sept. 17]
> 2. Phonetics [due Sept. 24]
> 3. Phonetics/Phonology [due Oct. 1]
> 4. Phonology/Morphology [due Oct. 8]
> 5. Morphology/Syntax [due Oct. 15]
>
> Mini Research Paper Assignment, 20% in total.
> a. Proposal, Outline and Annotated Bibliography [due Oct. 29, 5%]
> b. Full Draft of Paper [due Nov. 19, 0% but required for credit on final paper [1]]
> c. Final Mini Research Paper [due Dec. 3, 15%]

Final Exam: 30%. Date TBA [between Dec. 9–20] (Two hours).

Participation: 10%. Tutorial, lecture, online.

Important Dates

Last day to add course: Sept. 22

Last day to drop course: Nov. 4

Fall break: Nov. 11–12

All term work in F section code courses must be submitted by: Dec. 3

Final examinations for F section code courses: Dec. 9–20

Participation

Your participation mark will reflect your personal involvement in the course. Ways in which you can be involved in the class include, but are not limited to: asking and answering questions in lecture and tutorial; raising your hand or giving me the thumbs up when I ask the class "how many of you..." type-questions; attending lectures and tutorials; coming to my office hours (I really love office hours!); using the course discussion board and completing non-marked quizzes and feedback forms on blackboard; and completing in-class writing responses at the end of lectures and during tutorial.

Reading

In this class we will be moving quickly through different topics each week. Reading the assigned chapters prior to lecture will be key to your understanding of concepts and is required. Periodically, I will post a short non-marked quiz on blackboard that will assess your comprehension of the readings. These quizzes will count toward your participation mark (see above).

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[1] See the Mini Research paragraph below.

Writing

LIN200 has been chosen this year for an Arts and Science initiative to provide support for student writing. You won't be graded differently than you would otherwise, but your TAs will participate in special training to help mark your written assignments. Some of the tutorials and lectures will include activities that involve written responses prepared in the classroom and collected, and used to encourage discussion. Your participation in these activities contributes to the 10% participation mark.

Later in the year you may be given the chance to take a survey or be part of a focus group to comment on your writing experience in the course. Students tell us that this initiative is an effective component of the course, and our statistics confirm that their writing improves measurably.

Short Assignments

You must complete each short assignment before tutorial and hand in your completed assignment to your TA when the class starts at ten after the hour. If you arrive late to tutorial, you should immediately give your assignment to your TA. Otherwise, your assignment will be considered late, and you will receive a mark of zero. If you are unable to attend tutorial, you must hand in your homework to me either in my office hours, by arranging to come to my office at an earlier time, or in the Department of Linguistics drop box for this course, located at the east end of the fourth floor hallway in the Sidney Smith Building (**all prior to the start of your tutorial**). Homework must be neat, legible, and written in ink on the assignment pages. No late assignments will be accepted, except under extreme circumstances (see the policy on medical certificates below).

Only your best four out of the five short assignments will count toward your grade. Note that if you fail to hand in a short assignment on time, this will be considered a mark of zero and therefore, your lowest grade. The four remaining short assignments will count toward your grade, regardless of the marks received.

Mini Research Paper

This course also includes a mini research paper. The paper will be a maximum of 4 pages in length. You will be required to research one of a few possible topics in linguistics. You will be working to build a paper portfolio throughout the course in order not just to keep on track, but also to receive feedback at every step. In the first part of your mini paper portfolio (due at the end of October), you will have to hand in a short topic proposal, which describes the topic and direction you'd like to take, an outline of your paper, and an annotated bibliography. Near the end of November you will hand in a full draft of your paper and on the last day of classes you will hand in the final paper. You must submit each part of the portfolio on time in order to receive full credit. Part A. (proposal, outline and annotated bibliography) will be marked for completion. **Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted**. The full draft itself will not be evaluated for a grade, but you will receive feedback on the content and structure of the paper. However, in order to receive credit on your final mini paper, you absolutely must hand in a full draft by Nov. 19. In other words, **if you do not hand in a full draft of your paper on time, you will receive a mark of zero on the final mini paper**. You must also hand in every previous part of the portfolio (including TA comments and the completed rubrics for these components) each time you hand in a new part. Part of your evaluation will be based on how you addressed the feedback you received throughout.

Grading Policy

The Faculty of Arts & Science uses the "Refined Letter Grade Scale" which states in §I.4 that "the cumulative scores [for course work] may not be directly identified with the final grade."

Any regrading requests will need to be submitted at the next tutorial (and will not be accepted any later than one full week after TAs have returned the assignment to the class) with a completed "Regrading Request" Form, available on Blackboard. Work done in pencil cannot be submitted for re-grading.

Help Labs

Help labs will be scheduled before the midterm and the final exam. These help labs provide students with an opportunity to ask more questions and get more practice and extra assistance. Near deadlines associated with the mini research paper, I will also schedule a few special writing help labs.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to understand the University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> and to be familiar with the MLA guidelines on plagiarism. All the evaluations in this course are based on individual work. Cheating, plagiarism, or representing other people's work as your own will severely affect your academic standing. Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Linguistics and the Office of Student Academic Integrity. For information on "How Not to Plagiarize", please see <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>.

Midterm Test & Medical Certificates

Students who miss an assignment or the midterm will be assigned a mark of zero unless they can provide me with appropriate documentation. In case of illness, you must provide me with Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, completed by U of T Health Services or your family physician.

Please note that as indicated on the U of T Health Services website: "Mild colds, non-acute diarrhoea and/or vomiting, headaches, menstrual cramps, insomnia or other non-acute problems may benefit from medical advice and/or treatment, but may not warrant a certificate. Non-medical issues, such as a death in the family, should be addressed through your college (if A&S) or faculty registrar."

Note also that an illness verification form will not automatically result in alternative arrangements. The physician's report must establish that you were examined and diagnosed at the time of illness, and not after the fact. I will not accept a statement that merely confirms a report of illness made by a student and documented by the physician. If I feel that your condition was not serious enough to miss an assignment or the midterm you will receive a mark of zero. **Furthermore, I always contact physicians to confirm that their reports are genuine and warranted.** All suspicious medical certificates will be forwarded to the Office of Student Academic Integrity.

E-mail Policy

All e-mail correspondence must be sent from a University of Toronto e-mail address to `derek.denis@mail.utoronto.ca`. The subject line should begin with "LIN200" and the body of the message should include your full name and your student number. E-mail should only be used for administrative purposes (e.g., to schedule an appointment, to let me know if you're having trouble using the course blackboard site etc.). If you have questions about the content of the course, you should ask them (1) in lecture, (2) during your tutorial, (3) in my office hours, (4) on the discussion board, or (5) in a help lab. **If you email your TAs, they will not respond. You must email the instructor.** Please allow me at least 48 hours to respond to your emails.

Discussion Board Policy

I've set up a discussion board on our course blackboard site. You can use the discussion board to ask and answer questions about the course content. Do not directly discuss homework questions here. I will moderate the board and answer questions within 48 hours of you posting your question. Using the discussion board is one way to be involved and participate in this course.

Academic and Writing Support

There are many great student life programs and services on our campus. If you feel that you're falling behind in this course, or any other course, I highly recommend that you contact the U of T's Academic Success Centre at <`http://asc.utoronto.ca`>.

The college writing centres can be an excellent resource for you when writing your mini paper. Their teaching approach is described at <`http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning`>. Students can make appointments online here: <`http://writing.utoronto.ca/news`>. In addition, their website provides advice and tips for the writing process: <`http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice`>.