

LIN101H1F: Introduction to Linguistics: Sounds
Fall 2024

Version 1: September 2, 2024

Version 2: September 17, 2024: course email added

Version 3: September 24, 2024: HW deadlines corrected

Version 4: October 12, 2024: further typos corrected

Instructors: Angelika Kiss
 Pocholo Umbal (administrative questions)

Course email: lin101.utsg@course.utoronto.ca

Office hours: Mondays 12pm–1pm on zoom
 Tuesdays 3.30pm–4.30pm at SS4086
 Fridays 12pm–1pm on zoom

Lectures: LEC0101: Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, NF003
 LEC5101: Tuesdays 5pm – 7pm, HS610

Quercus website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/352643>

Prerequisites: None.

Exclusions: LIN100Y, LINA01, LINA02, LIN101 (UTM). ([link](#)).

Tutorials: Thursdays

1 Course description

This course is one of the two basic introductory courses to the field of linguistics, the scientific study of human languages. This course focuses on speech sounds, morphology, and sociolinguistics. As such, it serves as a prerequisite to second-year courses of phonetics, phonology, morphology and sociolinguistics, among others.

As part of the *Writing Integrated Teaching (WIT) Program*, this course is designed to help develop your writing skills, with a focus on accurate and coherent argumentation.

This course satisfies the Humanities distribution requirement and the *Thought, Belief, and Behaviour* breadth requirement.

2 Learning outcomes

The course objectives include learning about the field of linguistics and analyzing linguistic data, applying general principles of scientific theorizing and scientific thought.

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- recall, define, and explain basic concepts and terms used by linguists, especially: articulatory descriptions of speech sounds and signs
- describe fundamental units of linguistic structure (phoneme, handshape, morpheme, etc.)
- explain the differences between prescriptive and descriptive views of language
- identify and describe both the diversity and underlying similarities across languages effectively and refute common misconceptions and myths about language
- identify the locations and functions of parts of the human anatomy relevant to speech production and signed language articulation
- transcribe speech sounds using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- analyze linguistic data to determine allophones, allomorphs, and their distributions underlying representations, as well as phonological rules needed to connect underlying to surface representations
- recognize and assess how language is used to construct and sustain unfair social structures
- write logically, coherently, and clearly about language

3 Course materials

Textbook

[Essentials of Linguistics \(2nd edition\)](#)

You may consult additional textbooks, but please be aware that there can be some variation in how different sources talk about the topics in the course. If you come across anything that contradicts what you were taught in this course, remember that this course takes precedence.

Lectures

The lectures and the slides we go through in lecture are part of the course material. The lecture content is the same for both timeslots, so you should only attend the timeslot you enrolled in. Note that lectures are on UofT time, starting at 10 minutes

after the hour. Although attendance is not counted toward your grade, regular attendance is strongly recommended.

4 Assessment

Your overall course grade is calculated as follows:

| Item | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Course engagement | 10% |
| Homework (best 4 out of 5 counted, 5% each) | 20% |
| Quizzes | 30% |
| Final exam | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

Assessment of course work adheres to the following policies set forth by the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and by the Department of Linguistics:

<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-1-2020>
<https://www.linguistics.utoronto.ca/undergraduate-programs/grading-policy>

In particular, the results for all course work are normally given as raw scores, not actual marks. In most cases, these scores will not translate directly into marks (e.g., a raw score of 85 would not count as a mark of 85). Sometimes, it may be necessary to calibrate the raw scores before computing a final course grade to account for various issues (discrepancies between TAs in marking, assignments that were harder or easier than intended, etc.). Calibration will normally be a linear transformation which adjusts the value of scores without altering the underlying curvature (thus, it is not a true “curve”).

Homework and quizzes in this course are all intended as **formative assessments**, which means they are designed to help you progress through the course. Thus, your performance and scores for these assessments will be computed and released as soon as possible, to help you know what aspects of the material you need to work more on.

In contrast, course engagement and the final exam are **summative assessments**, which are intended solely for the instructor to compute a final grade as a representative summary of your overall mastery of the course material. These are not formative assessments, so you are not expected to learn from them.

Accordingly, it is standard practice in the Department of Linguistics that course engagement and final assessment marks are not released, so please do not ask for these marks.

Course engagement

Your participation grade is based on your participation during the tutorials (volunteering answers to questions and participating in discussions). We evaluate your overall engagement in the course based on a general pattern of behavior demonstrating engagement. Attendance alone does not count towards the participation/engagement mark.

Tutorials are in-person and take place at the St. George campus on Thursdays (see complete list of tutorials on our Quercus page; classrooms are available on ACORN). Attendance is required and tutorial participation makes up 10 percent of the final grade.

Every student must be registered in a tutorial in ACORN. The teaching team cannot register you, nor can we switch sections for you. If you require assistance with tutorial registration, this must be obtained through your college registrar.

Tutorials are a central component of this course. The tutorial offers added practice with material from the lecture in addition to discussion of practice questions and homework. Tutorial is also an opportunity for students to interact with one another and to engage in class discussion. Content introduced in tutorials may be tested on the quizzes and final assessment.

We ask that students only attend the tutorial in which they are registered. There are many reasons for this: 1) So that you can get to know your TA and fellow students, and vice versa; 2) So that we can ensure small numbers at each session; 3) We do not have the resources to track administrative issues that arise when students attend multiple sections.

Homework assignments

There are five homework assignments to be submitted online, the four best of which will count towards your final grade. As they are worth 5% each, the four assignments together make up 20% of your final grade. Homework assignments may have a quiz-style component and a short answers component.

Because homework solutions will be available and discussed shortly after the homework is due, and because we are on a tight timeline with material that continuously builds upon previous material, no extensions can be granted for

homeworks. To compensate for this strict policy, your lowest homework mark is ignored when computing your overall grade.

Note that some parts of the homework may be graded for completion only, not correctness, but you are still expected to make a serious attempt at a full solution in your submission to receive full credit. Homework may require more time than you think, and life may take unexpected turns, so start early! Do not wait until the last moments before the deadline to attempt to submit your homework!

You are encouraged to consult and collaborate with other students to discuss the homework, but you must each submit your own solutions online, in your own words, listing the names of all the students you worked with.

Homework is automatically submitted to Ouriginal for a review of textual similarity in an effort to detect possible plagiarism. Homework submissions will be included as source documents in the Ouriginal reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

The terms that apply to the University's use of the Ouriginal service are described online at <https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>. Your homework must be submitted on Quercus as a PDF only, typed in a standard font (Times New Roman, Computer Modern, Cambria, etc.), at a reasonable size (11–12pt) and with reasonable margins (around 2.5cm or 1-inch). The top of the first page must include your full name, your student ID#, the assignment number, and a list of the names of any students you collaborated with, something like the following (the actual format is not important, as long as the information is there):

Halima Sabir, 1234567890 Homework #1
collaborators: Asha Ojukwu, Justin Parker, and John (Li) Wei

If your homework is not legible, not properly formatted, or otherwise unacceptable according to these guidelines, it may be rejected and counted as 0% towards your homework average!

Quizzes

There will be 4 online quizzes scheduled on Mondays. The quizzes will become available at 8am in the morning of the given Monday and will close at midnight that day. Once the quiz is started, it has to be completed within 30 minutes. These are open book quizzes that test your understanding of each of the five major units of the course material. All material covered in previous lectures, tutorials, and assignments, including the most recent ones, are valid subjects for quizzes, though the focus will usually be on the most recent material since the previous quiz.

| Quiz topic | Weight | Date |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Unit 2 Phonetics | 7.5% | Monday, Oct 07, after lecture 5 |
| Unit 3 Phonology | 7.5% | Monday, Nov 11, after lecture 9 |
| Unit 4 Morphology | 7.5% | Monday, Nov 25, after lecture 11 |
| Unit 5 Sociolinguistics | 7.5% | Monday, Dec 2, after lecture 12 |

Make-up quizzes will only be given in certain emergency circumstances; appropriate medical documentation is required. You cannot collaborate with anyone on the quizzes. You may use your notes and anything directly linked on Quercus (but no other sources), but do not rely on them; you will not have time to look everything up, so you should have much of the course material committed to memory.

Final exam

The final exam will be an in-person test during the December Final Exam period (see Arts & Sciences' academic dates). The final exam is in-person and is closed book and closed notes. Your student ID will be checked and a signature page will be sent around. If you do not bring adequate ID, you may not be allowed to write the exam. The Faculty of Arts and Science will set the date and time for us; it will be a 2 hour period in which you will do the test.

Bonus marks

In addition to the compulsory course components, you also have the chance to earn bonus marks by participating in linguistic experiments and elicitation sessions. This type of activity can take up to 2 hours and by completing it, you can boost your final grade by one percentage point. The available experiments and elicitation sessions will be listed shortly after the term starts. Some experiments look for just a few participants and may close shortly after they are filled, others may stay open longer. Experiments typically have certain requirements. Always read the conditions carefully. If you do not qualify for any of the experiments, check the page weekly for updates. The participant pool coordinator takes care of the distribution of experiments and makes sure that everyone has a chance to participate.

5 Course schedule

| | Monday | Tuesday | | | | Thursday |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| | Quiz | Lecture | Topic | Reading | Homework | Tutorial |
| w1 | | Sep 3 | Lecture 1 Introduction What is linguistics? | 1 | | No tutorial Sep 5 |
| w2 | | Sep 10 | Lecture 2 Phonetics I Articulators | 3.1–3.2, 3.7 | | Tutorial 1 Sep 12 |
| w3 | | Sep 17 | Lecture 3 Phonetics II Consonants | 3.3–3.4 | HW1 posted | Tutorial 2 Sep 19 |
| w4 | | Sep 24 | Lecture 4 Phonetics III Vowels | 3.5–3.6 | HW1 due (Sep 24) | Tutorial 3 Sep 26 |
| w5 | | Oct 1 | Lecture 5 Phonetics IV Articulators in signed languages | 3.8–3.9 | HW2 posted | Tutorial 4 Oct 3 |
| w6 | Quiz I Oct 7 | Oct 8 | Lecture 6 Phonology I Syllables, stress, and tone | 3.10–3.12 | HW2 due (Oct 8) | Tutorial 5 Oct 10 |
| w7 | | Oct 15 | Lecture 7 Phonology II Phonemes and allophones | 4.1–4.6 | HW3 posted | Tutorial 6 Oct 17 |
| w8 | | Oct 22 | Lecture 8 Phonology III Practice with phonemic analysis | 4.5–4.6 | HW3 due (Oct 22) | Tutorial 7 Oct 24 |
| Reading week Oct 28–Nov 2 | | | | | | |
| w9 | | Nov 5 | Lecture 9 Phonology IV Rules and derivations | 4.7–4.10 | HW4 posted | Tutorial 8 Nov 7 |
| w10 | Quiz II Nov 11 | Nov 12 | Lecture 10 Morphology I | 5.1–5.7 | HW4 due (Nov 12) | Tutorial 9 Nov 14 |
| w11 | | Nov 19 | Lecture 11 Morphology II | 5.7–5.12 | HW5 posted | Tutorial 10 Nov 21 |
| w12 | Quiz III Nov 25 | Nov 26 | Lecture 12 Sociolinguistics | 10 2 (Quiz) | HW5 due (Nov 26) | Tutorial 11 Nov 28 |
| | Quiz IV Dec 2 | | | | | |

6 Course policies

6.1 Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Religious accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. **If you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a quiz or the final exam) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.**

6.2 Late and missing work

There is no opportunity to make up for missed homework. Though acquiring extra credit is possible, it is limited to one percentage point (see “Bonus marks” in section 4), and as such, it cannot fully cover a missed homework. Without timely notification, your case will not be considered. Once you have notified the instructor, you will be given further instructions. In case of a serious illness, injury, or another emergency, the appropriate documentation is either an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number).

For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on the Absence

Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. Note that the Linguistics Department and the Faculty of Arts & Science keep track of all student absences and absence records (across courses) will be monitored during the term.

If you miss the final exam, you must contact the *Faculty of Arts & Science* directly. Neither the instructor nor the Department of Linguistics has authority to defer students' final exam. Even if you are granted a deferral, please be aware that there is no guarantee that the content of this course, the instructor and the textbook in future semesters will be identical to what you learn this term.

6.3 Course etiquette

If you want to be referred to by a particular name and/or pronouns, please let the instructors and your TA know in a manner and time that is comfortable for you.

If there is a genuine marking error on an assignment (that is, an objectively correct answer being marked wrong), let us know as soon as possible via the regrade request page on Quercus (under General information). The instructions are to be found on the quercus page. Requests for mark reconsideration can only be handled one week after the mark is released; after that, they are locked in. Your request should be specific and clear; vague complaints about harsh grading are not sufficient.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: classroom dynamics affect all of us. The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Cell Phones and Laptop Usage: Technology can support student learning, but it can also become a distraction. Research indicates that multi-tasking during class time can have a negative impact on learning; so, being emotionally present in class and practicing active listening is ultimately beneficial to your learning. Out of respect for your fellow students in this class please refrain from using laptops or mobile phones for purposes unrelated to the class.

6.4 Online etiquette

For the online office hours, there is a waiting room: you may have to wait until you get admitted. Whenever possible, please always turn on your camera.

6.5 Academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. All students are expected to have familiarized themselves with the UofT [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

Beyond the permitted discussion of homework assignments, students are expected at all times to do their own work. Copying some or all of another student's assignment, quiz, or final exam is plagiarism, which is absolutely not tolerated. If you copy your work from another student or permit another student to copy from you, you will both receive zero for that work. Plagiarism is a serious offense that may result in serious penalty.

It is prohibited to use ChatGPT or other large language model-based conversational tools (often described in shorthand as “generative AI”) to assist with assessments in this course. Misrepresenting chatbot output as one's own writing is an act of plagiarism and will therefore be considered an academic offense under the [University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

6.6 Intellectual property

The class materials (notes, handouts, assignments, etc.) – whether in hard copy or electronic form – are the intellectual property of the instructor. You are not authorized to share any of these materials, in whole or in part, with anyone outside of the class, post them on a website, and/or make any commercial use of them without the instructors' written permission. Students may not create their own audio/video records of classes with the exception of those requiring accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to the lecture. Unauthorized distribution of protected course material is not only an academic offense but also a violation of the Canadian Copyright Act (RSC, 1985, c. C-42).

7 Communication with the teaching team

Course website

The course website is available on Quercus. You will need your UTORid and password to log in. All course material will be made available via the website.

Announcements

Quercus Announcements will be used to communicate timely updates about the course. **You are responsible for checking Quercus regularly for class related announcements.** You can set up Quercus so that it delivers notifications of announcements to your email.

Office hours

The course instructor will hold in-person and online office hours each week. The schedule and Zoom access information for office hours are available on Quercus. You can ask questions about the lecture content, but it is also a good opportunity to ask questions after looking through the homework and attempting to work on it. Starting early on your work is a great way to ensure success!

Discussion boards

Discussion threads will be available on Quercus for each class module. If you have a question that was not answered in lecture or tutorials, you may post it in the discussion boards. Questions posted in the discussion board will be answered in a 48-hours interval during weekdays. Depending on the nature of the question, we might suggest that you attend the office hours. Your participation in the discussion boards is not required/mandatory and you will not get any credit for participating in it.

Help labs

Optional help labs led by a TA (in person or over Zoom) will be scheduled before the Final Exam. The purpose of these is to assist students with questions and/or difficulties they might encounter in learning the course material and preparing for the test/exam. Students should bring their own questions, as TAs do not provide questions in help labs. Day, time, and location of help lab sessions will be announced on Quercus.

Email

- Email is for administrative matters only - not content questions. Always consult the syllabus before writing to see if your question is answered there. When writing to the teaching team, always use your utoronto account.

- An email should be sent to the course's official email address, lin101.utsg@course.utoronto.ca and **not** to the Quercus inbox, nor the personal emails of the TAs.
- Emails are checked and answered during regular business hours (between 9am and 5pm) weekdays. We reply to emails within two business days.
- You will **not** be in email contact with your TAs. TAs have strict guidelines governing how much time they can spend on this course: answering emails is not part of their activities.
- Any questions related to the content of the course, whether it is about the lectures, the readings, the tutorials or the assessment (homework, quizzes, tests) should be asked during lecture, tutorials, discussion boards (on Quercus) or brought to office hours.
- Emailing your professors is a type of professional communication and requires appropriate culture-specific etiquette. You can use the semi-informal greeting "Hi Professor".

8 Other Resources

Learning Resources and Academic Support: below are some links that you might find helpful in supporting learning in this course.

Writing Support: if you would like more information about resources to support your academic writing skills, visit the following webpages:

- Writing centres: <http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/>
- Writing website: <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/>
- English Language Learning programs/workshops: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

Academic Success Centre: <http://asc.utoronto.ca>

9 Mental Health and Well-being

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. There is no wrong time to reach out for help. There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (see <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources. See also: [Mindful moments program](#), [Health and Wellness Centre](#), [My Student Support Program \(My SSP\)](#), [3-Minute Movement Break](#) website.

24/7 Emergency Counselling:

U of T My Student Support Program (My SSP):

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/service/myssp/> 1-844-451-9700

Outside of North America: 001-416-380-6578.

U of T My SSP provides students with real-time and/or appointment-based confidential, 24-hour support for any school, health, or general life concern at no cost. Students can call or chat with a counsellor directly from their phone. Ongoing support is available over the phone in 146 languages. Immediate support is available over the phone in 35 languages and over chat in simplified Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

Good2Talk Student Helpline: <https://good2talk.ca/> 1-866-925-5454

Confidential support services for post-secondary students in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Professional counseling, information and referrals helpline for mental health, addictions and students' well-being.

Full list of resources for students:

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/>

10 Important dates

Below you can find the list of all the important dates for the Fall term of 2024 that you should be aware of and that affect our course. For the full list of such dates, see [Arts & Sciences' academic dates](#).

| | |
|---------------|--|
| September 2 | Labor day |
| September 3 | Classes begin, first lecture of LIN101 |
| September 12 | Waitlists for F and Y courses close at end of day |
| September 16 | Last day to enrol in F and Y courses |
| September 16 | Program/course fee freeze date (F and Y courses). Any F and Y courses cancelled after this date will still be counted for accurate tuition assessment. |
| September 17 | First day to select a Credit/No-Credit (CR/NCR) option for F and Y courses |
| October 28 to | Reading week (No classes) |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| November 1 | |
| November 4 | Last day to drop F courses |
| December 2 | Last day of classes |
| December 3 | Last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option in Fall F courses |
| December 3 | Deadline to request Late Withdrawal (LWD) from Fall F courses |
| December 4–5 | Study days |