SYLLABUS

LING 201:
Linguistic Theory and Analysis II

1   Contact information

Instructors:	Marcin Morzycki (prof; pronounced [ˈmrsn])
	Bruce Oliver, Ella Hannon, Starr Sandoval (TAs)
Email:	marcin.morzycki@ubc.ca,
	bruce.oliver@ubc.ca,
	ella.hannon@ubc.ca,
	starr.sandoval@ubc.ca
Bruce's office hours:	Thursdays 10:00–11:00 on Zoom
Ella's office hours:	Tuesdays 2:30–3:30 on Zoom
Marcin's office hours:	Mondays 2:00–3:00 on Zoom
	or, by prior arrangement, in person at Totem Fields Studios 226

2   Prerequisites

None.

3   Course structure

The course will be primarily structured around problem-solving and theory construction, both in-class and outside of it. That will definitely happen in tutorials and in your work outside of class. Even in the lecture sessions, we'll aspire to a combination of traditional lectures and discussion.

The work will involve take-home assignments and exams that ask you to wrestle with a series of linguistic problems and present clear arguments in favor of a proposed solution. All work will be done in small groups. See 'Activities' for more.

You are required to enroll in the lecture section of the course and in a tutorial and to actually attend that tutorial. Tutorial attendance will affect your participation grade.

4   Objectives

The overarching aim of this course is to teach you how think like a linguist with respect to the syntactic and semantic components of language: that is,

- to discern and state linguistic generalizations
- to develop, evaluate, and improve precise and rigorous hypotheses
- to present such hypotheses clearly and effectively and to formulate and recognize convincing arguments in favor or against them

We'll primarily focus on syntax (sentence structure), semantics (roughly, the structure of meaning), and pragmatics (roughly, meaning in context). Along the way we'll briefly touch on morphology (word structure) and, conceivably, psycholinguistics (how the brain processes language).

5   Activities

The principal requirements for the course are:

- Ordinary take-home assignments, of which there will be three. These will require you to devise solutions to empirical problems and present them in the form of a brief well-reasoned argument.
- Two take-home exams, a midterm and a final. These will be essentially long assignments
- Contributing frequently and thoughtfully to discussion in tutorials, lectures, and/or in Canvas online discussions.
- Participating in the linguistics department's Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) program, which means either participating in experiments or writing a one-paragraph summary of a linguistics department talk (or another talk approved in advance). You need two LOC points. LOC credits have to be completed by the final day of instruction for the term.

Outside of class   You will collaborate on your take-home work (including the exams) with two other people and turn in a joint write-up. Each collaborator must be able to defend the proposed solution. You may discuss your work with other students not in your group, but other people's ideas must be properly cited.

In class   The course will revolve primarily around in-class discussion, and much of the progress we make will be made that way, so *making it to class is crucial*. If you miss classes, you are likely to miss information that will be necessary to understand the assignments and subsequent discussion. If you anticipate having to miss class frequently, do not take this course.

LOC credit   Participation in Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) is required for this course. LOC is a means of increasing your involvement in learning about linguistics outside of regular classroom instruction. There are two ways of doing so:

- One way is by participating in two points' worth of experiments being run by researchers in the Department of Linguistics. Experiments typically take between 15 minutes and 1 hour and offer the opportunity to contribute to and learn about linguistics research first hand. Your participation in research is voluntary.

- A second way of completing this requirement is by attending linguistics research seminars or colloquia and writing a one-paragraph summary of each talk, which you submit through the SONA booking system *within a week of attending*. You can browse the talk series on the linguistics department's online events calendar. Attending a talk and writing a summary is worth two LOC points.

To sign up for LOC credit, please visit the SONA online booking system. The points associated with experiments vary according to their duration. You can learn more about all this on the department's website. Your LOC credit is to be completed by the last day of classroom instruction for the term (that is, before the finals period).

6   Assessment

Each assignment and each exam will receive a percentage grade. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Assignments:	42% total (14% each)
Midterm exam:	24%
Final exam:	24%
Participation:	8%
LOC:	2%

This will map onto a letter grade according to UBC's standard scale, which is as follows for undergrads:

90–100	A+	76–79	B+	64–67	C+	50–54	D
85–89	A	72–75	B	60–63	C	00–49	F
80–84	A–	68–71	B–	55–59	C–		

For MA students, grades below C are failing; for PhD students, grades below B are.[1]

This is all subject to UBC's broader policies about grading, which apparently include the possibility of 'scaling' your grade to diminish grade inflation.

7 Supplemental textbook

You may want to refer to the following textbook as a supplemental resource. It's used in higher-level syntax classes at UBC, so you may find it useful to start getting to know it now:

> Sportiche, Dominique and Koopman, Hilda and Stabler, Edward. 2013. *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory*. John Wiley & Sons Inc.

It's available online through the library. We will not rely on it in detail or follow it chapter-by-chapter. It is, of course, *not a substitute for coming to class*—much of what we discuss will have no direct counterpart in the textbook, and where there is overlap, the conclusions will often have been arrived at differently.

8 Other course policies

Communication and work format   You'll get handouts, assignments, and exams via Canvas. You should turn assignments in that way too, in the form of a PDF file. Please *don't* attempt to submit files in Word or any other format.

---

[1]Consult the UBC Calendar for details.

Disability   Please notify me during the first two weeks of the course to make any special arrangements to accommodate a disability. If you haven't already done so, you should contact the UBC Centre for Accessibility for additional help.

Academic integrity   Don't plagiarize. The structure of the course may make this a little trickier than it might seem. If someone that isn't actually a coauthor of your write-up gives you an idea that you use or build on, say in the write-up who it was. *Don't look for solutions to the problems on your assignments online.* In most cases, this isn't possible, but in all cases, it's a form of cheating. Of course, that prohibition includes ChatGPT and any other form of artificial intelligence. For more on the university's academic integrity policies, look at the university's Academic Honesty and Standards statement.

Social media and copyright issues   Don't share course materials (slides, handouts, assignments, etc.) with anyone outside of class. This would be a serious breach of trust, a form of academic misconduct, and a violation of copyright. Don't record anything that happens in class without prior approval. Violating these policies may result in academic disciplinary sanctions.

9   University policies

Here is the standard UBC syllabus prose about university policies:

> UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.
>
> Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website.

More generally, if you're struggling with an issue that is affecting your ability to engage with the course, please don't hesitate to communicate that.

10 Acknowledgment

Here is the land acknowledgment we have adopted as a department:

> We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, and Səl̓ílwətaɬ Nations (Vancouver campuses) and the Syilx peoples (Okanagan campus). We at UBC Linguistics consider this land acknowledgment to be an opportunity to show our commitment towards reconciliation and the recognition of Indigenous peoples and languages. Please visit `native-land.ca` or `maps.fpcc.ca` to learn more about these places, peoples and languages.

For anyone interested in linguistics, it's also worth acknowledging a corresponding fact about the intellectual ground on which we stand. Endangered languages—here and around the world—are crucial to discovering what sorts of phenomena occur in natural language and how languages vary from each other. Without them, we would know less about the language faculty, and therefore less about ourselves.

11 Road map

Here is an *approximate* road map of the topics we'll discuss. It's tentative in that the exact pace at which we proceed depends in part on how you respond, and we may linger longer on certain points or make other small adjustments to accommodate your interests/needs/inclinations.

The due dates of assignments are also approximate.

Jan. 9–11	Logistics & syllabus
	Preliminaries: linguistic intuitions
	Syntax: A device that builds sentences
	The architecture of the grammar
	Lexical categories
	Phrase structure rules
	Assignment posted
Jan. 16–18	Capturing generalizations
	Constituent structure
	Constituency diagnostics
	The language of trees
	Assignment due
	Assignment posted

Jan. 23–25	Possessives Extending the grammar Ambiguity *Assignment due*
Jan. 30–Feb. 1	Recursion Complementation Subcategorization
Feb. 6–8	X-Bar Theory Adjunction
Feb. 13–15	Functional Heads
Feb. 20–22	*Reading week. No class.*
Feb. 27–29	Head Movement *Wh*-Movement *Midterm posted*
March 5–7	Semantics: A meaning machine Implicatures and entailments *Midterm due*
March 12–14	Compositional semantics: assembling meanings Modification
March 19–21	Determiners & quantification Pragmatics *Assignment posted*
March 26–28	Explaining implicatures Presupposition
April 2–4	Wrapping up semantics & pragmatics A taste of psycholinguistics Some intellectual history *Assignment due*
April 9–11	Modularity Morals of the story *Final exam posted*
April 18	*Final exam write-up due. (But no class.)*