

**University of Saskatchewan
Interdisciplinary Linguistics Program
Ling 111.3: The Structure of Language
Course Outline Fall 2014**

Location: Arts 101; T,Th, 2.30-3.50 **Instructor:** Dr. Peter Wood **E-Mail:** peter.wood@usask.ca
Office: Arts 908 **Office Hours:** Th 1.00-2.00 and by appointment

Course description.

This course presents an introduction to the structure of language and how modern linguistic frameworks analyse it. It covers the basics of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The course aims at presenting examples from various languages.

Course objectives:

At the end of this course students will know the fundamental concepts of:

- phonetics (the study of speech sounds, how they are produced, transmitted, and processed)
- phonology (the study of speech sounds in a particular language, how they combine, and form larger units)
- morphology (the study of the structure of words)
- syntax (the study of the structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences)
- semantics (the study of meaning in language)
- pragmatics (the study of how we use language to communicate with others)

Required textbook:

We will be using lecture notes based on the forthcoming textbook by Dr. Veronika Makarova which will be made available to you via the course website. Supplementary readings will be assigned from:

Aileen Bloomer, et al. (2005). *Introducing Language in Use*. A Coursebook. London: Routledge.

This book is available online to students at the University of Saskatchewan.

Other course materials may be provided on the course website: <http://linguistics.usask.ca/Ling111/>

Student Evaluation:

Students will write tests on the topics covered in the course and in reading assignments. The tests will be open book tests. They consist of multiple choice questions. Tests will be advertised in class and on the course website. They will be open for at least three days to allow students to pick a convenient time to do them.

Tests: 60%. Five online tests will be written throughout the term. The final mark for the tests will be calculated by taking the average of the four highest test scores. This means that students can miss one of the tests without negatively impacting their final mark.

Final Exam 40%. The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions similar to the questions you will be familiar with from the online quizzes. The final exam is closed book.

Course Schedule

Week (ends)	Topic
1 (Sep 5)	Introduction(Course outline, assessment, etc.)
2 (Sep 12)	Phonetics
3 (Sep 19)	Phonetics
4 (Sep 26)	Phonology Quiz 1
5 (3 Oct)	Morphology
6 (10 Oct)	Morphology Quiz 2

7 (17 Oct)	Syntax
8 (24 Oct)	Syntax Quiz 3
9 (31 Oct)	Syntax
10 (7 Nov)	Semantics Quiz 4
11 (14 Nov)	Semantics
12 (21 Nov)	Pragmatics Quiz 5
13 (28 Nov)	Pragmatics
14 (5 Dec)	Review

Attention:

This schedule is preliminary. If there is any change in the test dates & format, you will be notified in class and on the course website.

Attendance

will not be monitored, however students are strongly encouraged to attend due to the complexity of the subject matter. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to make sure you catch up by contacting fellow students, and by checking the course website.

Tests

will be announced on the course website and will be administered online.

Tutorials

are offered by upper year linguistics students. It is highly recommended that participants attend the tutorials regularly in order to adequately prepare for quizzes and the final exam.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty:

The [University of Saskatchewan Council](#) defines plagiarism as “*the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter.*”

Examples of plagiarism:

- i. The use of material received or purchased from another person or prepared by any person other than the individual claiming to be the author. [It is not plagiarism to use work developed in the context of a group exercise (and described as such in the text) if the mode and extent of the use does not deviate from that which is specifically authorized].
- ii. The verbatim use of oral or written material without adequate attribution.
- iii. The paraphrasing of oral or written material of other persons without adequate attribution.

The best way for you to avoid charges of plagiarism is to [cite all of your sources](#), giving credit for all words and ideas that are not your own.

Check out the Academic Honesty website at <http://www.usask.ca/honesty/> for more information.

Policies on late assignments:

Only in exceptional circumstances (upon a presentation of a medical certificate, a letter from the coach, etc.), a student MAY be allowed by the instructor to write the chapter test outside of the test schedule. In such case, the test will be a hard-copy version of the online test with the time limited to 50 min.

Percentage Grades: Literal Descriptors

Percentage grades map to literal descriptors which are published in the [Catalogue](#). Undergraduate percentage ranges and their literal descriptors are as noted in the accompanying text box.

Percentage Range	Descriptor
90–100 Exceptional	A superior performance with consistent strong evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter; • an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given; • an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking; • an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.
80–89 Excellent	An excellent performance with strong evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter; • an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given; • a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking; • an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.
70–79 Good	A good performance with evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a substantial knowledge of the subject matter; • a good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques; • some capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking; • a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.
60–69 Satisfactory	A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material; • a fair understanding of the relevant issues; • a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques; • an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material; • a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.
50–59 Minimal Pass	A barely acceptable performance with evidence of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a familiarity with the subject material; • some evidence that analytical skills have been developed; • some understanding of relevant issues; • some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques; • attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner which are only partially successful.
<50 Failure	An unacceptable performance.