

**LING 2010Q:**  
**THE SCIENCE OF LINGUISTICS**  
 TUES/THURS 3:30–4:45, OAK 106

**Instructor:**

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**Office hours:**

Thursdays 1:30–3:00  
 OAK 374

**Course Description.** Humans alone yield the power of language: the power to express complex ideas and desires; the power to create and understand an infinite number of never-before-uttered sentences; the power from birth to master, flawlessly, an incredibly intricate grammatical system. So what is language? What are the different components of language? How do children learn language? Which properties (if any) underlie all human languages? These are the questions that linguists ask, and the questions that we will explore in this course. We will take a whirlwind tour through the formal, structural properties that we find across the world's languages—phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. By the time our tour is over, I hope you have a newfound appreciation of the incredible feat you perform every time you open your mouth and speak.

**Readings.** Selected papers and textbook chapters; posted on HuskyCT (<http://lms.uconn.edu>).

**Course Website.** Lecture notes, readings, homework, and review materials will be posted on the course website on HuskyCT—you are encouraged to visit it frequently. An anonymous feedback form will also be available to you throughout the semester on HuskyCT; you can use it to send me your suggestions and requests, so that I can adjust the target of the class accordingly—use it!

**Grading.** Course grades will be determined by the rubric below.

Participation: 3%  
 Homework: 35% (5% each)  
 Midterm Exam 1: 16%  
 Midterm Exam 2: 16%  
 Final Exam: 30%

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

**Lecture.** Class lectures will be based on handouts, which I will print for you each class, and which you should bring to all following lectures. These handouts will also be posted on HuskyCT, after each class.

You are expected to complete the assigned reading by the day of lecture.

Participation in lecture and regular attendance is expected. Every now and then in-class quizzes will be assigned, and their completion will be counted as class participation. The

main purpose of these quizzes is to give you the opportunity to practice for the exams and for you to assess your degree of familiarity with the course material. Quizzes have to be completed individually in class; they will be corrected but not graded. There is no prior announcement of quizzes, and there are no make-up quizzes.

**Homework.** Homework assignments will be posted on HuskyCT on Tuesdays and will be due the following Tuesday by the beginning of class (to me or to my mailbox in OAK 368).

Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is a documented and legitimate excuse.

Students are encouraged to work together on homework, but must turn in their own write-ups. You should not have the exact same answer as somebody else. This will be considered plagiarism and university policies on dealing with plagiarism will apply.

Write-ups must be legible – it doesn't matter if it is done in pen, in pencil, or on the computer, but if I can't read it, I can't grade it. If you know you have extremely messy handwriting, please type!

**Midterm Exams.** There will be two midterm exams, both of which will mostly consist of short answer questions and cover just a portion of the course material.

The first midterm exam will take place in class on Thursday September 28th, 2017 and will cover phonetics and phonology.

The second midterm exam will take place in class on Thursday November 2nd, 2017 and will cover morphology and syntax.

You may reschedule a midterm exam only if you have a documented and legitimate excuse. Please let me know as soon as possible if this is the case.

**Final Exam.** The final exam will consist mostly of short answer questions and will be cumulative, i.e., it will cover all of the course material. However, there will be slightly more weight on the post-second-midterm part of the course (syntax and semantics).

The final exam will take place during exam week (December 11-16, 2017). As of today, we don't know the date for the final exam yet. The Registrar's Office usually puts the dates for finals around the end of March, after the spring recess. I'll get back to you as soon as I know.

If you need to reschedule the final exam, you must do so through the Office of Student Services and Advocacy.

**Extra Credit.** You can earn *up to 3 extra credit points* for participating in experiments that are being conducted within the Linguistics department. You will receive 1 point for every 1 hour of participation, with partial hours rounded up. These points will be added directly to your final grade.

You can sign up for experiments by going to this website and creating an account using your UConn email address: <https://uconn-ling.sona-systems.com>. Experiments will be posted on this site as they become available. (We cannot tell you exactly when, because it is up to the individual experimenters to post them). The online system keeps track of your credits, so you can check your balance at any time. The instructor of the course for which you are completing the extra credit is notified of your credits automatically at the end of the semester, at which point the credits will be added to your final grade.

You must complete the experiments *by Friday, December 8th at 5pm* (the last day of classes this semester). Please be sure to allocate your points to this class (LING 2010Q — Roberto Petrosino) in the system. This will ensure that I am notified of your credits. I will post the points to your grade at the same time that I post the final exam scores. Many experiments have restrictions (e.g., “must be a native speaker of English”). PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP FOR EXPERIMENTS THAT YOU ARE NOT QUALIFIED FOR. Experimenters verify the requirements at the beginning of the experimental appointment, so this wastes your time and theirs. *Please do not worry if you don't qualify for the experiments that you see.* The administrator of the pool will make sure that there are experiments for everybody by the third to last week of the semester.

We cannot predict when experiments will be available, because it is up to individual researchers to post experiments. You should check the website above regularly to see if new experiments have become available. However, it is guaranteed that there will be enough experiment slots for everyone in the class to earn the full 3 points if they want. Do not worry if it seems as though there aren't very many experiments early in the semester. The administrator of the Linguistics department participant pool will make sure that there are enough experiments before the end of the semester, and that the experiments appear before the third to last week of the semester, so that you don't have to rush at the end. That being said, we do suggest that you sign up for experiments when they arise so that you can get your extra credit out of the way early.

Please note that other departments on campus also have experiments (e.g. Psychology). Their experiments do not count in this class. You must complete experiments that are posted by the Linguistics department to earn extra credit for this course. The website above only contains experiments by the Linguistics department, so this is very easy. Just go to that website, create an account, and complete 3 hours worth of experiments listed there.

Participation in experiments is completely voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in experiments, you can instead write a 3 page paper on a topic related to this course for extra credit. You must clear the paper topic with your instructor in advance. The paper must include original research beyond the course material. The paper will be graded, and you will receive 0-3 points based on the grade.

**General Notes.** This is a Q course, which means that we will be relying heavily on primary data, analysis, hypothesis-testing, and formalisms.

I will give small (ungraded) quizzes every class, to get you to practice what we have just learned. These will be used to help me gauge how everyone is doing, and to see who has attended the class.

Please contact me during office hours to discuss academic accommodations that may be needed during the semester due to a documented disability. If you have a disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), please do so as soon as possible. The CSD engages in an interactive process with each student and collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860)-486-2020 or at [csd@uconn.edu](mailto:csd@uconn.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the CSD website at [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu).

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to minor changes)**

<b>Week One</b>	
Tuesday, August 29th	Meet & greet; Review syllabus; Introduction to language/linguistics
Thursday, August 31st	Linguistics and pseudo-linguistics <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), pp 1-21; Pereltsvaig
<b>Week Two</b>	
Tuesday, September 5th	Phonetics <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 6, pp. 229-250 <b>HW #1 posted</b>
Thursday, September 7th	Phonetics <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 6, pp. 250-255
<b>Week Three</b>	
Tuesday, September 12th	Phonetics <i>Reading:</i> No additional reading
Thursday, September 14th	Phonology <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 7, pp. 272-296 <b>HW #1 due; HW #2 posted</b>
<b>Week Four</b>	
Tuesday, September 19th	Phonology <i>Reading:</i> Introductory Phonology (Hayes 2009), Ch. 2
Thursday, September 21st	Phonology <i>Reading:</i> Introductory Phonology (Hayes 2009), Ch. 4 (Optional)
<b>Week Five</b>	
Tuesday, September 26th	Review
Thursday, September 28th	Review
<b>Week Six</b>	
Tuesday, October 3rd	<b>Exam # 1</b> <b>HW #2 due</b>
Thursday, October 5th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Contemporary Linguistics (ODA 3e), Ch. 4, pp. 111-117 <b>HW #3 posted</b>
<b>Week Seven</b>	
Tuesday, October 10th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Contemporary Linguistics (ODA 3e), Ch. 4, pp. 117-122
Thursday, October 12th	Morphology <b>HW #3 due; HW #4 posted</b>
<b>Week Eight</b>	
Tuesday, October 17th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Linguistics (Fromkin), Ch. 2, pp. 54-57
Thursday, October 19th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 4, pp. 117-142 <b>HW #4 due; HW #5 posted</b>

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (continued)**

<b>Week Nine</b>	
Tuesday, October 24th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 4, pp. 142-169
Thursday, October 26th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> No additional reading
<b>Week Ten</b>	
Tuesday, October 31st	Review/Fieldwork <b>HW #5 due</b>
Thursday, November 2nd	<b>Exam #2</b>
<b>Week Eleven</b>	
Tuesday, November 7th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> What is meaning? (Portner 2005), Ch. 1 <b>HW #6 posted</b>
Thursday, November 9th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> An Introduction to Language (FRH 9e), Ch. 5
<b>Week Twelve</b>	
Tuesday, November 14th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> No additional reading <b>HW #6 due; HW #7 posted</b>
Thursday, November 16th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> No additional reading
<b>November 20-24: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>Week Thirteen</b>	
Tuesday, November 28th	Semantics review <b>HW #7 due</b>
Thursday, November 30th	<i>Guest lecture:</i> Myth busting sign languages Prof. Diane Lillo-Martin (UConn)
<b>Week Fourteen</b>	
Tuesday, December 5th	Semantics Fieldwork: Italian <i>mica</i>
Thursday, December 7th	Review
<b>December 11-16: Finals Week</b>	