ENG 304 English Linguistics (5)  
(Fall 2012)

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Office location: L&L 403H  
Classroom: L&L 325  
Office Hours: MW 4-5 p.m., R11-12 a.m., or by appt.

Required Texts


Course Description

In this course, we will study up-to-date core areas of linguistics, including phonetics (the part of the grammar that studies the inventory and structure of speech sounds), phonology (the part of the grammar that determines the selection of speech sounds and that governs both the sound patterns and systematic phonetic variation found in language), morphology (the part of the grammar concerned with words and word formation), syntax (the part of the grammar that unfolds ways to group words into phrases, clauses, and sentences), and semantics (the part of the grammar that peruses meaning in human language). Thus, this course will explore a broad range of current and key linguistic topics and concepts essential in studying the structure of the English language. To achieve such purposes, we will review traditional terminology, such as vowel, consonant, syllable, morpheme, noun, verb, gerund, participle, relative clause, polysemy, truth conditions, etc., and we will also introduce and study new concepts and terminology, such as phoneme, allophone, prosody, supra-segmental properties, binary features, nucleus, enclitics, trees, X’ schema, Q feature, c-command, thematic grid, and more. In going through the topics and concepts, we will introduce, step by step, some practical techniques by which we apply part of our newly acquired linguistic knowledge to conduct structural analyses of literary texts. Given the multiple challenging topics to be covered, this course will proceed with a fast pace and inevitably require a substantial amount of your time and attention. Plan your schedule accordingly at the very beginning, join voluntary group-study sessions (I strongly encourage you to do so), and strive to succeed in this course.

Course Requirements

Regular attendance, active class participation, constructive class discussion, and timely completion of numerous assigned readings and exercises; five tests and a term paper on linguistic analyses of literary selections (to be assigned after substantial related topics are covered).

Learner Outcomes and Assessment Tools

Outcome 1: Use the international phonetic alphabet to transcribe language sounds and demonstrate knowledge of how speakers use vocal-tract articulators to produce specific sounds, how sounds can be grouped into classes, how human languages use tone, stress, intonation, and sound length to create meaning, and how speech sounds in context can be modified by neighboring sounds.

Assessment 1: Numerous exercises and a test on phonetics.

Outcome 2: Demonstrate knowledge of how we know which language sounds are distinctive in a particular language, how contextualized distinctive sounds can vary systematically, how
syllables are constructed, and how we can construct rules to explain systematic variations in the production of sounds.

Assessment 2: Numerous exercises and a test on phonology.

Outcome 3: Analyze the structure of words to show knowledge of how words are formed through derivation, inflection, compounding, cliticization, conversion, clipping, blending, backformation, acronym, borrowing, and more.

Assessment 3: Numerous exercises and a test on morphology.

Outcome 4: Conduct syntactic analysis and demonstrate knowledge of how we categorize words, how words are combined into phrases and sentences according to a systematic schema, how words subcategorize other words, how questions are derived from statements, how we diagram the structure of sentences, and how all languages are syntactically alike or different.

Assessment 4: Numerous exercises and a test on syntax.

Outcome 5: Demonstrate knowledge of how meaning is derived from words and sentences, how language encodes concepts in words and sentences, and how we use sentence structure to produce and understand meaning.

Assessment 5: Numerous exercises and a test on semantics.

Outcome 6: Apply knowledge of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics in the analysis of literary texts in English.

Assessment 6: A term paper that analyzes prominent linguistic patterns of literary texts.

Grading Policies
Five tests (15% each for a total of 75%), a term paper (20%), regular attendance (5%). Students who miss more than two class sessions will receive a 1% penalty for each additional absence, and those who do not miss a single class session throughout the quarter will be awarded an extra credit of 2%. Any absence, excused or not, however, would automatically forfeit this award.

Grading Scale
We will follow this grading scale: A (94-100%), A- (90-93.9%), B+ (87-89.9%), B (84-86.9%), B- (80-83.9%), C+ (77-79.9%), C (74-76.9%), C- (70-73.9), D+ (67-69.9%), D (64-66.9%), D- (60-63.9%), F≤59%.

Tentative Weekly Schedule
(subject to minor revisions if needed)

Attention:
1. Numerous exercises for individual chapters in the main textbook are assigned and color-coded in blue below. Do them in advance or latest in tandem with the progress of the course. We will go over the answers to most of these exercises in class.
2. Numerous exercises for individual chapters in the Study Guide are also assigned, color-coded in purple below. Do them at appropriate time and compare your answers with the Answer Key provided (pp.189-272).
3. Test dates, which may or may not need to be revised, are highlighted in red below.

1st wk: Sept. 20
Chapter 1 “Language: A Preview” (pp. 1-14)
1. Specialization for Language (2)  
2. A Creative System (3)

Chapter 2 “Phonetics: The Sounds of Language” (pp.15-58)  
1. Phonetic Transcription (16)  
2. The Sound-Producing System (19)  
3. Sound Classes (21)

2nd wk: Sept. 25, 27
Chapter 1 (con’t)  
Chapter 2 (con’t)  
5. Manners of Articulation (25-34): Oral vs. nasal phones, stops, fricatives, affricates, voice lag and aspiration, liquids, syllabic liquids and nasals, glides  
6. Vowels (32-38): Simple vowels, diphthongs, basic parameters for describing vowels, tense and lax vowels  
7. Phonetic Transcription of American English Consonants and Vowels (38-40)

3rd wk: Oct. 2, 4  
8. Suprasegmentals (40-46): Pitch (tone and intonation), length, stress  
10. Other Vowels and Consonants (51-52)  
11. Summing Up (53)

Textbook Exercises: Chapter 2 (55-58): #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #12, #15  
(We will discuss their answers in class)

Study Guide Readings and Exercises: Chapter 2 (10-38): Read all the descriptions and explanations for Chapter 2 and complete these exercises: #2.6, #2.7, #2.8, #2.9, #2.12, #2.13, #2.15, #2.16, #2.17, #2.18, #2.19, #2.20, #2.21, #2.22, #2.23, plus Review Exercises #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6. Please note that the “Answer Key” to almost all the exercises in the Study Guide is available on PP.189-272.
Test 1 on phonetics (the last hour of Oct. 4)

4th wk: Oct. 9, 11
Chapter 3 “Phonology: The Function and Patterning of Sounds” (59-114)  
1. Segments in Contrast (61-64): Minimal pairs and language-specific contrasts  
2. Phonetically Conditioned Variation: Phonemes and Allophones (65-74) --Complementary distribution --Phonemes and allophones  
--Classes and generalization in phonology --English mid vowels and glides --Language-specific patterns  
3. Phonetic and Phonemic Transcription (74-77) --Phonetic and phonemic inventories

5th wk: Oct. 16, 18  
4. Above the Segment: Syllables (77-86) --Defining the syllable --Onset constraints and phonotactics  
--Accidental and systematic gaps --Setting up syllables
--Syllabic phonology

**Textbook Exercises: Chapter 3** (106-112): #1, #4, #9, #10i, #10ii, #10iii, #12i, #12ii, #12iii (We will discuss their answers in class).

**Study Guide Readings and Exercises: Chapter 3** (39-57): Read all the descriptions and explanations for Chapter 3 on pages 39-57 and complete these exercises: #3.1, #3.2, #3.3, #3.5.1, #3.5.3, #3.6.1, #3.6.2, #3.6.4, #3.7.1, #3.7.2, #3.8, #3.9, #3.10.1.

**Test 2 on phonology (the last hour of Oct. 18)**

6**th wk:** Oct. 23, 25

**Chapter 4 “Morphology: The Analysis of Word Structure”** (115-154)

   --Morphemes: Free and bound morphemes, allomorphs
   --Analyzing word structure: Roots and affixes, bases, types of affixes, problematic cases
2. Derivation (122-127):
   --Some English derivational affixes: Complex derivations, constraints on derivation
   --Two classes of derivational affixes
3. Compounding (127-131):
   --Properties of compounds
   --Endocentric and exocentric compounds
   --Compounds in other languages
4. Inflection (131-135):
   --Inflection in English: Category change, order, productivity, semantic transparency
   --Inflection versus derivation
   --Other inflectional phenomena

7th wk:** Oct. 30, Nov. 1

5. Other morphological phenomena (135-143):
   --Processes primarily related to inflection: Internal change, suppletion
   --Other processes: Cliticization, conversion, clipping, blends, backformation, acronyms, onomatopoeia, other sources of new words
6. Morphophonemics (143-144)

**Textbook Exercises: Chapter 4** (147-153): #1, #4, #7, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #18, #19, #20, #21 (We will discuss their answers in class).

**Chapter 4: Readings and Exercises in the Study Guide** (73-105): Read all the descriptions and explanations for Chapter 4 on pages 73-105 and complete these exercises: #4.1, #4.2, #4.3, #4.4, #4.5.1, #4.5.2, #4.6.1, #4.6.2, #4.7, #4.8, #4.9, #4.10, #4.11, #4.12, #4.15.1, plus Review Exercises 5, 6.

**Test 3 on morphology (the last hour of Nov. 1)**

8th wk:** Nov. 6, 8

**Chapter 5 “Syntax: The Analysis of Sentence Structure”** (155-202)

1. Categories and Structure (157-168)
   --Categories of words: Meaning, inflection, distribution
   --Phrase structure: The blueprint, heads, specifiers, complements
   --The merge operation
   --Sentences
--Tests for phrase structure: Substitution, movement, coordination
--Appendix: How to Build Tree Structures (194)

2. Complement Options (168-172)
--Complement options for verbs
--Complement options for other categories --Complement Clauses

9th wk: Nov. 13, 15
3. Move (172-182)
   --Yes-No questions: A landing site for the “I” node
   --Deep structure and surface structure --Do insertion
   --Wh movement: A landing site for wh words
   --Verb Raising (e.g. in French) --Verb Raising in English

Textbook Exercises: Chapter 5 (199-202): #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #13
(We’ll discuss their answers in class).

Study Guide Readings and Exercises: Chapter 5 (106-133): Read all the descriptions and explanations for Chapter 5 on pages 106-133 and complete these exercises: #5.1, #5.2, #5.3.1, #5.3.2, #5.3.3, #5.4, #5.5, #5.6.1, #5.6.2, #5.7, #5.8, #5.9, #5.10.1, #5.10.2, #5.11, #5.12.1, #5.12.2, #5.12.3 (Ignore “relative clauses” in the direction of PRACTICE 5.12), plus Review Exercises from 1 through 13.

Test 4 on Syntax #1 (the last hour of Nov. 15)

10th wk: Nov. 20 (no class on Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving Recess)

Chapter 5 (con’t):
5. Some Additional Structures (187-193):
   --Coordination --Modifiers
   --Summing up

11th wk: Nov. 27, 29
Chapter 6 “Semantics: The Analysis of Meaning” (203-228)
Parts 1 and 2 (omitted)
3. Syntax and Sentence Interpretation (221 - 231)
   --Constructional meaning --Structural ambiguity
   --Thematic roles

Textbook Exercises: Chapter 6 (240-243): #11, #12, #13, #14, #15 (We’ll discuss their answers in class).

Study Guide Readings and Exercises: Chapter 6 (140-146): Read all the descriptions and explanations for Chapter 6 on pp. 140-145; complete these exercises: #6.4.1, #6.4.2, #6.5, #6.6.1, #6.6.2.

Test 5 on Syntax #2 and Semantics (the last hour of Nov. 29)

11th wk: Dec. 4 (Tuesday) Term paper due in class at 2:00 p.m.