

Introduction to Linguistics – AN21002BA/AN2102OMA/AN28012BA

offered for 2nd-year students in the BA program in English Studies and students in the
Teacher Training Program
Fall 2020

August 28, 2020

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to important areas of the study of language, namely morphology, syntax, and semantics/pragmatics. Most specifically, it is aimed at providing students with some basic tools that they will need when they analyze various grammatical phenomena in language, which we will look at as a rule-governed system. The topics that we cover throughout the course include creativity, language change, inflection, derivation, constituent structure, recursivity in syntax, grammatical relations, simple versus complex clauses, semantic relations at the level of words and sentences, compositionality, thematic roles and conversational maxims. The course also provides a first introduction to argumentation in linguistics.

Textbooks

Genetti, C. (Ed.). (2014). *How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
O’Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M. & Rees-Miller, J. (Eds.). (2005). *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. 5th edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

Practice

Handouts for most classes will be posted in UD’s e-learning platform. Students will be informed of the availability of new class material via email.

Grading

The final grade will be based on a mid-term test (40%) and an end-term test (60%). Retake opportunities will not be available for these two tests.

The grading scale in this course will be as follows:

91% - 100% - 5
81% - 90% - 4
71% - 80% - 3
61% - 70% - 2
0% - 60% - 1

Serious grammatical errors will also be taken into account in the calculation of the final grade on any written work.

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included. Students arriving late for class will be marked as absent.

Weekly Syllabus

	Class content	Reading assignments
Week 1	Introduction 1 <i>a quick discussion of the main objectives of the course</i>	
Week 2	Introduction 2 <i>language versus dialect language change language endangerment language documentation the fields of linguistics</i>	Genetti (2014):. pp. 3-23
Week 3	Morphology I <i>free vs. bound morphemes, roots vs. affixes, derivation, compounding, inflection</i>	Genetti (2014):. pp. 71-91
Week 4	Morphology II <i>typology, problem sets</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 91-99
Week 5	Word Classes <i>open vs closed classes, number, case, person, lexical vs grammatical class</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 100-117
Week 6	Syntax I <i>constituent structure</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 118-128
Week 7	Syntax II <i>recursive structures, arguments and transitivity, grammatical relations</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 129-140

Week 8	Syntax III <i>coordination vs subordination, adverbial clauses, complement clauses</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 140-149
Week 9	Consultation Week – No class	
Week 10	Mid-Term Test	
Week 11	Semantics I <i>semantic relations, denotation vs. connotation, extension vs. intension, semantic decomposition</i>	O’Grady <i>et al.</i> : pp. 201-217
Week 12	Semantics II <i>the Principle of Compositionality, thematic roles, the interpretation of pronouns</i>	O’Grady <i>et al.</i> : pp. 217-228
Week 13	Pragmatics <i>conversational maxims, the Cooperative Principle, implicatures</i>	O’Grady <i>et al.</i> : pp. 228-244
Week 14	End-Term Test	

Place and Time

Room 121, Wednesday 8:00 – 9:40 a.m.

Room 121, Wednesday 10:00 – 11:40 a.m.

Contact

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Office hours: Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Under the current regulations, the course is planned to be a face-to-face, classroom-based course. However, if due to the pandemic we have to switch to remote teaching, please be prepared to use the University of Debrecen E-Learning system at elearning.unideb.hu. In case of such a switch, the grading policy may be subject to change. You will be notified of these changes by the instructor if needed.

It is our shared responsibility to observe effective hygiene rules and follow the relevant government, university and faculty regulations regarding the pandemic. If you become ill or experience any symptoms, please stay home to protect others from infection.