

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 201 — Winter 2016

MWF 13:35–14:25, Macdonald-Harrington Building G-10

Instructors

	Meghan Clayards	Hadas Kotek
<i>email</i>	meghan.clayards@mcgill.ca	hadas.kotek@mcgill.ca
<i>office</i>	2001 McGill College, 819	1085 Dr. Penfield, 101
<i>office hours</i>	Mon 11:30-13:00 (til 2/16)	Mon 15:00–16:30 (from 2/17)

Teaching assistants

Henrison Hsieh — henrison.hsieh@mail.mcgill.ca

Dejan Milacic — dejan.milacic@mail.mcgill.ca

Office hours: TBD. Room TBD

Content of the course

This course is an introduction to linguistic theory and analysis. Topics covered include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The goal is to familiarize students with current tools of linguistic analysis. Students will be required to display an understanding of these tools by applying them to data from different languages. The main component of evaluation will be linguistic problem solving through assignments, quizzes and exams.

Requirements and evaluation

6 homework assignments	30% (5% each)
4 quizzes	12% (3% each)
1 midterm exam	20%
1 final exam	38%

Readings

- **Coursepack** (available at McGill bookstore and on reserve at Redpath Library), contains:
 - Steven Pinker *The Language Instinct*, chs 1–2
 - Mark Baker *The Atoms of Language*, ch 1
 - O’Grady & Archibald *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction*, chs 2–5
 - Andrew Carnie *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, chs 1–3; 6
 - John Saeed *Semantics*, chs 4, 7.7

Course rules and procedures

Conferences

Starting in Week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA. Conferences will be held at different times on Fridays as follows:

	Time	Location	TA
003	Friday 12:35–13:25	EDUC 624	Henrison Hsieh
004	Friday 13:35–14:25	EDUC 624	Henrison Hsieh
005	Friday 11:35–12:25	EDUC 613	Dejan Milacic
006	Friday 13:35–14:25	MDHAR G-10	Dejan Milacic

To determine which conference you will attend, you must sign up on Minerva. Once you have signed up for one section, you cannot switch to another. An effort will be made to divide the students evenly between sections. This means that once a section has a certain number of students, no more students will be accepted into that section.

You are responsible for the material covered in conferences just as you are responsible for the material covered in lectures. If for some reason you cannot attend a conference or lecture, you should make sure that you get the relevant notes from a classmate.

Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held every week, starting in Week 3. There will be extra office hours before the midterm and final exam, which will be posted later. The TAs will take turns covering the office hours so you will have a chance to meet with different TAs. If you are unable to meet with TAs or professors during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments and generally these can be arranged within one week of the request.

Tutors

If you feel that you need more individual attention, we encourage you to contact either the Student Tutorial Service (398-6011) or SLUM (the undergraduate linguistics student association: slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca). It is understood that tutors help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

Email

You can expect TAs and professors to respond to your e-mail questions and comments. However, please do not expect instant responses. We will try to respond within two working days (though we will be more vigilant closer to assignment due dates and exam times). Students often find that the discussions on the MyCourses website helpful.

Homework assignments

Problem sets may be done in groups. However, a group may contain a maximum of three students and all group members must have the same TA. A group should submit **a single assignment** with all group members names on it. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade for the assignment. You are not required to work in a group.

All problem sets must be submitted electronically on myCourses, and will be due Mondays at 11:59pm (roughly one week after they are distributed). Assignments will not be accepted late unless you have a documented medical excuse and we have been notified within 24 hours of when the assignment was due.

Quizzes

Short quizzes will be available on MyCourses. More information will be provided in the lectures prior to each quiz to help you prepare for these.

Midterm exam

The midterm exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 16** from 18:05–19:55. It will take place in **TBD**. A make-up midterm will be arranged only for students who have a conflict with the midterm as scheduled. To be eligible, students must be registered in a conflicting course with a higher priority than LING 201.

Note on assignments, quizzes, and exams

No make-up assignments, quizzes or midterm exam will be given to anyone who does not have a certified medical excuse. We must be notified within 24 hours of a missed assignment, quiz or midterm exam. You may leave messages at (514) 398-4222, even on weekends. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 3.7, General University Information and Regulations. (See <http://www.mcgill.ca/student-records/exam/regulations> for more information on final and deferred exams.)

Any problem with grading on a problem set, quiz, or exam must be reported within one week of when the problem set, quiz, or exam was returned. No answer to any graded material will be re-assessed unless the answer was originally written in ink and it has not been written over.

Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Right to submit in French

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Copyright

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Timeline

	Date	Topics (tentative)	Reading (may change)	Assignments	
1	R	1/7	Intro & overview (Monday schedule)	Pinker, ch. 1, 2	
	F	1/8	Phonetics 1: transcription & sound	CLA 2.1–2.2	
2	M	1/11	Phonetics 2: articulation (consonants)	CLA 2.3–2.5	(PS 1 available)
	W	1/13	Phonetics 3: articulation (vowels)	CLA 2.6–2.7	
	F	1/14	Phonetics 4: production	CLA 2.9	Quiz 1
3	M	1/18	Phonology 1: phonemes	CLA 3.1–3.3	
	W	1/20	Phonology 2: rules	CLA 3.4	(PS 2 available)
	F	1/22	<i>Conference 1: transcription</i>		
4	M	1/25	Phonology 3: features	CLA 3.3	PS 1 due
	W	1/27	Phonology 4: derivations	Handout	Quiz 2
	F	1/29	<i>Conference 2: phonology</i>		
5	M	2/1	Morphology 1: morphemes	CLA 4.1	PS 2 due
	W	2/3	Morphology 2: derivation	CLA 4.2–4.3	(PS 3 available)
	F	2/5	<i>Conference 3: morphology</i>		
6	M	2/8	Morphology 3: inflection	CLA 4.4	
	W	2/10	Morphology 4: other processes	CLA 4.5	
	F	2/12	<i>Conference 4: morphology</i>		
Spring break — no class					
7	M	2/15	Review		PS 3 due
	W	2/17	Syntax 1: basics & categories	Carnie 1, 2–2.3; CLA 5.1.1	(PS 4 available)
	F	2/19	<i>No conference</i>		
8	M	2/22	Syntax 2: constituency	Carnie 3	
	W	2/24	Syntax 3: modification	Carnie 6.0–6.1	
	F	2/26	<i>Conference 5: syntax</i>		
9	M	3/7	Syntax 4: X-bar theory	Carnie 6.2–6.4	PS 4 due
	W	3/9	Syntax 5: adjuncts	Carnie 6.5–6.7	(PS 5 available)
	F	3/11	<i>Conference 6: syntax</i>		
10	M	3/14	Syntax 6: sentences	CLA 5.1.3–5.2	
	W	3/16	Syntax 7: movement	CLA 5.3	Quiz 3
	F	3/18	<i>Conference 7: syntax</i>		
11	M	3/21	Syntax 8: more movement		PS 5 due
	W	3/23	Semantics 1: basics & binding	Saeed 4	(PS 6 available)
	F	3/25	<i>No Conference, Good Friday</i>		
12	M	3/28	<i>No lecture, Easter</i>		
	W	3/30	Sem 2: entailment & presupposition		
	F	4/1	<i>Conference 8: semantics</i>		
13	M	4/4	Semantics 3: implicatures	Saeed 7.7	PS 6 due
	W	4/6	Principles & Parameters 1	CLA 5.4	Quiz 4
	F	4/8	<i>Conference 9: P & P</i>		
14	M	4/11	Principles & Parameters 2		
	W	4/13	Review		
	W	4/15	<i>Conference Review</i>		