

Language

LING-UA 1.001 — Spring 2018
MW 11:00AM-12:15PM, 194 Mercer Street, room 306

Instructor

Dr. Hadas Kotek
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Office hours: Mondays 1:00–2:30 & by appointment

Teaching assistants

LING-UA 1.002

Maria Kouneli
Email: mk5023@nyu.edu
Thursdays, 3:30–4:45PM
Location: 45 W 4th Street, Room B02
Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5pm or by appt;
10 Washington Place, room 603

LING-UA 1.003

Songhee Kim
Email: songhee.kim@nyu.edu
Thursdays, 4:55-6:10PM
Location: 238 Thompson Street, Room 261
Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:30pm or by appt ;
10 Washington Place, room 603

Content of the course

This class will provide some answers to basic questions about the nature of human language. Throughout the course, we will be examining a number of ways in which human language is a complex but law-governed mental system. We will study some core aspects of this system in detail, and then use what we have learned to address a variety of other questions – including how language is acquired, how dialects arise, how languages change over time, and others. The main component of evaluation will be linguistic problem solving through assignments and exams.

Prerequisites

This course assumes no prior knowledge of linguistics; dont worry if you're not a native speaker of English.

Textbook

An Introduction to Language, 10th edition
Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, Nina Hyams
ISBN: 1-133-31068-0

Available used (possibly) and new at the NYU Bookstore, to buy or rent
Also available as an ebook, to buy or rent
You can probably get by with the 9th instead of the 10th edition, but use at your own risk.

Workload and grade calculation

10% Participation in Recitations. The TAs will take notice of your participation in recitations.

40% Homework. There will be a small homework assignment due almost every week. All homework should be word-processed and stapled. Homework assignments will be posted on NYU Classes at least 5 days before they are due. Homework is to be turned in on the due date by the beginning of class. **You must turn in your homework online via NYU Classes, as a *single* PDF file.** We will not accept homeworks in Word or other format, nor will we accept scanned or photographed handwritten assignments, except if the assignment states otherwise. **Late submissions will not be accepted.** You will get your homework back later in recitation. **The two lowest homework grades will be dropped.**

20% Midterm. The midterm will be in-class and closed-book. There will be a detailed review session before the test so you'll know exactly what is coming. The dates for both the midterm and the final are fixed (see below). Please schedule your other obligations around these dates, because **there will be no make-up tests.**

30% Final. See "Midterm" above.

Your letter grade for the class will be assigned on the following scale.

A	95–100%	B	83–86%	C	73–76%	D	63–66%	Grade scale
A–	90–94%	B–	80–82%	C–	70–72%	F	0–62%	
B+	87–89%	C+	77–79%	D+	67–69%			

Fractional grades will be truncated down to the nearest integer (e.g. 94.7 is truncated to 94).

Course rules and procedures

How to contact us. The best way is by email, or talk to us right before or right after class. Take advantage of our office hours if you can. We will also be happy to meet you by appointment.

Email. You can expect TAs and professor to respond to your e-mail questions and comments. 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 NYU Classes website helpful.

Extra credit. The midterm and final may or may not include extra credit questions, worth up to an additional 5% of each test grade. Homework assignments may or may not occasionally have extra credit questions. Extra credit is an equal opportunity for everyone in the class to improve their grades, so it will not be issued to individual students on request. We will also not change the grade calculation for individual students on request. If you want some grade security, we suggest doing all the homework assignments and not missing class.

Attendance policy. We know that you are serious students but that you are also adults who budget time between coursework, jobs, personal commitments, and unforeseen circumstances. Because of this, you are not required to attend lectures, and the course policies are designed accordingly. (Note: you *are* required to attend recitations.) However, as in any course, you will do best if you come to class every time and on time.

What to do if you miss class. Go to the NYU Classes site. All the materials will be posted to the course site. Review these and read the assigned readings extra attentively. It's also a good idea to make a friend in the class so that you can trade notes in case one of you misses a lecture.

Personal situations. If anything arises during the semester that may affect your classroom performance, or if you can anticipate this possibility at the beginning of class, please come talk to the professor or your TA. If you wait until the end of the semester, we won't be able to help you. We're more likely to be able to address the situation if you speak to us when it happens. If something catastrophic happens in your life that prevents you from continuing your studies for an extended period of time, you should talk to the Dean of Students (Dean Kalb, richard.kalb@nyu.edu).

Religious observance. As a nonsectarian, inclusive institution, NYU policy permits members of any religious group to absent themselves from classes without penalty when required for compliance with their religious obligations. If you anticipate being absent on a midterm or final exam day because of any religious observance, please tell us in advance as soon as possible.

Disability Disclosure Statement. Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980.

NYU's Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities
726 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003-6675
Telephone: 212-998-4980; Voice/TTY Fax: 212-995-4114
Web site: <http://www.nyu.edu/csd>

Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating will not be tolerated and may cost you your grade and have repercussions in your career (for example, having a cheating record will all but negate your chances of getting into a decent law school). **You must solve all homework assignments alone and without help from other students.** If you use any resource other than the readings and lecture slides as you prepare your homework assignment, you must provide a scholarly citation for the resource and explain the extent to which you have used it.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of what counts as cheating in this course: (i) copying a homework or exam from another student, with or without the student's knowledge; (ii) collaborating on the homework with another student; (iii) plagiarism, that is: reproducing data or ideas from a scholarly source, website, or other resource (other than the readings and lecture slides) without attributing authorship where it is due; (iv) including solutions obtained from answer keys or similar sources into one's homework submission.

Please read the University policies on Academic Integrity for CAS, which are described on <http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity>, and the NYU Academic Integrity Policy available via the NYU website (<http://www.nyu.edu>) > About NYU > Policies and Guidelines > University Policies and Guidelines > Academic Affairs & Faculty > Academic Integrity for Students at NYU.

You will fail any homework on which you have cheated, even if you have only cheated on a part of it. You will fail the course if you cheat repeatedly or if you cheat on a test. If we have reasonable grounds to suspect a case of plagiarism or cheating, we reserve the right to refer the case directly (i.e., without first talking it over with the students) to the Dean of Students. This is because the dean is in a better position than ourselves to distinguish first-time from repeat offenders and to apply fair and consistent standards across NYU.

How to succeed in this course. This course requires a certain degree of involvement on your part if you wish to earn more than a passing grade. If you want to do well, you should:

- come to all the classes and take notes (you can download or print out the slides before class);
- check your email often for announcements;
- take full advantage of recitations and office hours; your questions;
- do all the reading before the day for which it is assigned;
- set aside at least two or three hours a week to do the homework, and don't wait to do it at the last minute;
- not be afraid to ask your TA/professor for help if you have trouble with an assignment.

Copyright

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, recitation materials, assignments, 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.

Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Notes
1	Jan 22 Jan 24	Introduction Ch1: What is language?	
2	Jan 29 Jan 31	Ch 2: Morphology Ch 2: Morphology	
3	Feb 5 Feb 7	Ch 3: Syntax Ch 3: Syntax	
4	Feb 12 Feb 14	Ch 3: Syntax Ch 3: Syntax	
5	Feb 19 Feb 21	(no class) Ch 4: Semantics	President's Day
6	Feb 26 Feb 28	Midterm review Midterm	Midterm is in the usual time/place
7	Mar 5 Mar 7	Ch 4: Semantics Ch 5: Phonetics	
8	Mar 12 Mar 14	(no class) (no class)	Spring Break
9	Mar 19 Mar 21	Ch 5: Phonetics Ch 6: Phonology	
10	Mar 26 Mar 28	Ch 6: Phonology Ch 6: Phonology	
11	Apr 2 Apr 4	Ch 7: Language in society Ch 7: Language in society	
12	Apr 9 Apr 11	Ch 7: Language in society Ch 10: Language and the brain (note reading)	
13	Apr 16 Apr 18	Ch 8: Language change Linguistics at NYU	
14	Apr 23 Apr 25	Ch 9: Language acquisition Ch 9: Language acquisition	
15	Apr 30 May 2	Ch 11: Computer processing Final review	
16	May 7	Buffer	Final day of class
	May XY	Final exam	

Please consult the registrar's office for **final exam** time and location.