

LING 203-02: Introduction to Linguistics II – Winter 2010

Time and Place: TR 11:00-12:15 a.m., SS 109
 Instructor: Dr. M. McGinnis (Blackboard says “Archibald”), SS 828, 220-6119, mcginnis@ucalgary.ca
 Office hours: Tuesdays at 1 p.m., and by appointment
 TA: Rhonda Sim, SS 817, 220-2065, rgsim@ucalgary.ca

This course is a further introduction to the scientific study of language. Students will apply their analytical skills and knowledge of linguistic theory to issues in language acquisition, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, and psycholinguistics.

Course materials and outline

O’Grady, William, and John Archibald. 2009. *Contemporary linguistic analysis*. 6th Edition. Toronto: Pearson Longman. (Package includes answer key.)

Companion website: <http://www.pearsoned.ca/ogrady> (Includes Chapter 16.)

Vanderweide, Teresa. 2009. Study guide to *Contemporary linguistic analysis* (Chapter 7).

<i>Part 1: Nature and nurture</i>		
Jan. 12-19	Introduction; First language acquisition	ch. 10
Jan. 21-26	Second language acquisition	ch. 11
Jan. 28-Feb. 2	Animal communication	ch. 16 (online)
Feb. 4	MIDTERM 1	
<i>Part 2: Language divergence and diversity</i>		
Feb. 9-11	Historical linguistics	ch. 7
Feb. 14-21	<i>Reading week: No lectures</i>	
Feb. 23-Mar. 4	Historical linguistics (cont’d.)	
Mar. 9-11	Language classification and Aboriginal languages	chs. 8-9
Mar. 16	Problem-solving exercises	
Mar. 18	MIDTERM 2	
<i>Part 3: The cognitive and social organization of language</i>		
Mar. 23-25	Psycholinguistics	ch. 12
Mar. 30-Apr. 1	Neurolinguistics	ch. 13
Apr. 6	Writing systems	ch. 15
Apr. 8	One-minute presentations	
Apr. 13-15	Sociolinguistics	ch. 14

Grading scheme:

Research participation / critical thinking project	4%	variable, or February 26 and April 16
Midterm exam 1	25%	February 4
Midterm exam 2	25%	March 18
One-minute presentation	6%	April 8; topics ASAP and by April 1
Final exam	40%	Registrar-scheduled (April 19-29)

Prerequisite: C- (or better) in LING 201 or equivalent.

The letter grades assigned will correspond to the percentages below:

A+ 95-100%	B+ 80-84%	C+ 65-69%	D+ 52-54%
A 90-94%	B 75-79%	C 60-64%	D 50-51%
A- 85-89%	B- 70-74%	C- 55-59%	F below 50%

Attendance and meeting deadlines

It is important to attend class, since exams and assignments will focus on the material covered in class. There will be no make-ups for missed midterms. If you have an acceptable, documented reason for missing a midterm or presentation (your serious injury or illness, or the birth, marriage, critical illness, or death of an immediate family member), the weight of the missed midterm will be transferred to the final exam. If not, the missed midterm will receive a grade of zero. If any of the situations mentioned above interferes with the completion of your critical thinking project, you may request a one-week extension. For longer delays, the weight of the project may instead (at the instructor's discretion) be transferred to the final exam. **Late projects without an acceptable, documented justification will lose one full letter grade (e.g., from A to B) for each week or part of a week that the project is handed in late.**

Academic integrity

You should be familiar with the Calendar section on academic misconduct (pp. 49-51), which describes the consequences of plagiarism or cheating (F grades, probation, expulsion, etc.).

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly, plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student, or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- c) the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. No assignments in this course call for students to work in groups. Thus, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

Exams

Your exams will include a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer and problem-solving questions. The second midterm will cover only the material in Part 2 of the course. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all three parts of the course, though approximately two-thirds of the final exam will focus on Part 3.

One-minute presentation

Each student will make a one-minute presentation on a fascinating discovery about language — a discovery which is not found in the course materials, and which you have come across through your own independent research. The presentation must be strictly oral, with no audio or visual aids or props. You may speak spontaneously or refer to notes, but you must not read from a script, and I strongly advise against memorizing one. The one-minute rule will be strictly observed. Presentations will be graded on content (relevance, analysis, and explanation) and manner (organization and time management, verbal and non-verbal engagement of the audience, appropriate academic style). Your topic must be different from those of your classmates. As soon as you come up with a topic, you should e-mail it to Dr. McGinnis, who will post it on the Blackboard site. If your proposed topic has already been chosen, you must find another. Therefore, it is in your interest to choose a topic as early as possible.

Research participation and critical thinking project

LING 203 students are required to satisfy an Experiential Learning/Critical Thinking component worth 4% of their final grade. The goal of this component is to introduce you to contemporary linguistics research. This component is satisfied: (1) by participating in ongoing research studies in the Linguistics department; (2) by completing evaluations of articles from a designated list; or (3) by a combination of these two options.

To participate in departmentally approved research studies, students must first login to <http://ucalgary-ling.sonasystems.com> to create a participant account. Studies will be posted to this website as they become available during the semester, and you can sign up to participate in them on this site. You will earn 1% for each study you participate in. Each study will also be followed by an educational debriefing. Please note that there may not be enough studies available to meet your credit requirements, so you should seek studies early in the term and check often for open timeslots. The last day to participate in studies and assign earned credits for LING 203 is April 16, 2010.

You can also complete this course component by reading and evaluating short linguistics research articles. Each acceptable evaluation will earn 2%. A list of reviewable articles will be posted to https://webdisk.ucalgary.ca/~swinters/public_html/203.html during the semester, along with a form you must fill out in completing each evaluation. This form asks you to list the name and research area of the article you are evaluating, and answer a series of four critical thinking questions about the content. Please note that you can submit only one evaluation per due date (February 26, April 16). Please consult the Blackboard site for more information.

You can also complete this course component by combining credit from options 1 and 2 (2% from each option). A student who participates in only one research study (=1%) will still have to complete two article evaluations (=4%) to earn credit for all 4% of this course component. Since only one article evaluation can be submitted on each due date, students who plan to combine options 1 and 2 are strongly advised to submit an evaluation on the earlier due date.

Questions?

If you have any questions relating to this course, please contact Rhonda or Dr. McGinnis. For questions about the Linguistics program, please contact one of our Undergraduate Advisors, Dr. McGinnis or Dr. Suzanne Curtin (SS 842, 220-3927, ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca). Another good resource is Verbatim, the Undergraduate Linguistics Club (SS 803, 220-7153, verbatim@ucalgary.ca).