

LING 100: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Days: Tue, Thu | Time: 03:00 pm–05:00 pm | Venue: Zoom

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəy'əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Səlílwətał Nations (Vancouver campuses) and the Syilx peoples (Okanagan campus). We at UBC Linguistics consider this land acknowledgment to be an opportunity to show our commitment towards reconciliation and the recognition of Indigenous peoples and languages. Please visit native-land.ca or <https://maps.fpcc.ca/> to learn more about these places, peoples and languages.

PREREQUISITES

NONE

COREQUISITES

NONE

CONTACTS

Course Instructors	Contact Details	Office Hours
Jahurul Islam	<i>Email:</i> jahurul.islam@ubc.ca <i>Typical response time:</i> 24–48 hrs (excluding weekends and holidays)	See under Canvas → Zoom
Michel Navarro (TA)	<i>Email:</i> michel.assisnavarro@ubc.ca <i>Typical response time:</i> 24–48 hrs (excluding weekends and holidays)	See under Canvas → Zoom

Communication procedure:

Canvas Course Q&A: You are strongly encouraged to ask your questions (and maybe answer others' if you already know the answers), especially the logistic ones, on the Course Q&A forum (accessible from [Homepage](#) >> [Discussions](#) >> [Course Q&A](#)). If we function as a community, finding help is much easier.

Virtual office hours: My office hours in this course are going held online via Zoom (links under [Canvas Homepage](#) >> [Zoom](#)). I'd strongly encourage you to come to the office hours to get your questions answered or even just to say "Hi..."

Emailing: Please use email to contact me for urgent and/or personal academic matters only. Anything that involves general matters of the course should be asked on the Q&A thread first. Please include the prefix "LING XXX:" to the subject lines in all your emails; also, CC me when emailing the TAs whenever feasible.

COURSE INTRO

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of language as a universal and uniquely human cognitive system. The course covers the fundamental aspects of human language, offering insights into its structure, use, and variation. Throughout the term, we will explore the core areas of phonetics and phonology (the sounds of language), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the structure of sentences), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics (language in context). Additionally, we will touch upon language variation and change, as well as language acquisition, providing a comprehensive overview of how language evolves and is learned.

COURSE FORMAT

The classes for this course will be held **online synchronously** via Zoom. You are expected to attend and participate in real time. Please note that the classes will NOT be recorded. If you miss a class, make sure to collect notes from your classmates.

Please ensure the following to have the best possible learning experience:

- **Reliable Internet Connection:** Please ensure you have a stable and fast internet connection. This will help avoid disruptions during our live sessions.
- **Distraction-Free Environment:** Find a quiet space where you can focus without interruptions. This will enhance your learning and participation.
- **Technical Check:** Test your computer, microphone, and webcam beforehand to ensure they are working properly.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- think about human language in an informed way
- appreciate what makes human language special
- explain the basic building blocks of human language
- apply fundamental concepts that are essential to linguistic investigation

The skills that you develop in this course can be applied to many situations, for a discussion relating to careers in Linguistics, please see: <https://linguistics.ubc.ca/undergraduate/beyond-the-ba/>

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Typical class activities will include:

- lectures by me reviewing/explaining concepts based on the learning materials
- active discussion in groups on the day's readings
- question/answer sessions to clarify concepts concerned
- participating in quizzes and polls
- hands-on problem-solving, etc.

LEARNING MATERIALS

Required textbook

Essentials of Linguistics, 2nd Edition (open access online textbook). The book is freely available in PDF format: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics2/>

Anderson, Catherine, Bronwyn Bjorkman, Derek Denis, Julianne Doner, Margaret Grant, Nathan Sanders, and Ai Taniguchi. (2022). *Essentials of Linguistics*, 2nd edition. eCampusOntario: 978-1-927565-50-6.

Additional readings relevant may be announced, as deemed useful.

ASSESSMENT

Course assessment will consist of the following components:

Quizzes	20%
Tutorial worksheets	10%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	35%
Participation	9%
LOC	1%

1. **Quizzes:**

- Each class will start with a quiz. You must be present in the class to be able to attempt the quizzes.
- Testable contents will include the topics covered in previous class.
- To accommodate unexpected circumstances such as illness that may result in missing a quiz, the quiz with the lowest score will be excluded from the calculation of final grades. Please use this accommodation only in extraneous circumstances.

2. **Tutorial worksheets**

- For each tutorial, there'll be a worksheet to complete and submit. The worksheets will be due by 10 am on the day of tutorial (before the tutorial session).

3. **Midterm:**

- There will be a midterm covering all the contents covered up to that point during the term.

4. **Final exam:**

- A final exam will be administered at the end of the exam.

5. **Participation**

- Your presence in class as well as the tutorial sessions is greatly appreciated. To encourage your active participation, I will offer incentives for engaging in class activities. Your active involvement is essential for effective learning, as it allows you to ask questions and clarify concepts in real-time.
- ***I will keep a record of your participation*** in the class and the tutorials (in the form of your participation in the polls we conduct) throughout the term. These data will be used to determine the participation points at the end of the term.
- Out of 9 points, 6 will come from class and 3 will be from the tutorials.
 - For classes, participation in at least 80% of the polls would entail full 6 points; 70% would be 5 points, 60% would be 4 points, 50% would be 2 points, less than 50% would be 0 (zero) points.
 - For tutorials, participation in at least 80% of the polls would entail full 3 points; 70% would be 2 points, 60% would be 1.5 points, 50% would be 1 points, less than 50% would be 0 (zero) points.

6. **Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC):**

- Participation in Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) is required for this course. This is a means of increasing your involvement in learning about linguistics outside of regular classroom instruction. There are two ways of satisfying this requirement.
- For this course, you need to earn **1 LOC credit**.

- (1) One way is by participating in experiments being run by researchers in the Department of Linguistics. Experiments typically take anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour and offer the opportunity to contribute to and learn about linguistics research first hand. Due to COVID-19, all experiments will be conducted online this term. Your participation in research is always voluntary.
- (2) A second way of completing this requirement is by attending one online Linguistics research seminar or colloquium and writing a one-paragraph summary of the talk, which you submit online within one week of attending. All research seminars and colloquia will be held online. There will also be a colloquium geared towards LOC students near the end term, which will be available both synchronously and asynchronously (for students in different time zones).
- To sign up for eligible experiments and live or pre-recorded talks, please visit <https://linguistics.ubc.ca/undergraduate/advising/linguistics-outside-the-classroom/>. You can also satisfy this requirement by participating in an appropriate combination of experiments and talks. The credits associated with experiments vary according to their duration. Attending a talk and writing a summary constitutes 2 LOC points.
- **LOC contact:** The LOC is an independent system and the course instructor does not manage it. If you have any queries about the LOC, first check <https://linguistics.ubc.ca/undergraduate/advising/linguistics-outside-the-classroom/>; if you cannot find the relevant information, please reach out to the LOC Chair Dr. Ryan Bochnak (ryan.bochnak@ubc.ca).

COURSE POLICIES

Late/Missed exams:

- Due to the limited capacity of our teaching team, we will not be able to offer any make-up quizzes or exams. Additionally, to maintain the integrity of our assessments, no extensions will be granted.
- If you happen to miss a quiz or the midterm to a credible reason, you must notify the instructor via email within a reasonable time. For **each** occurrence, also email me a completed “Student Self-Declaration - Academic Concession” PDF form (available here: <https://www.arts.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2019/10/Student-Self-Declaration-Form-1.6-Arts.pdf>).
- If you happen to miss the final exam, please reach out to the Academic Advising to apply for a Standing Deferral.

Re-grades and appeals:

Marks/grades are not subject to negotiation. However, we’ll happily correct any marking errors due to miscalculations that are brought to our attention within 7 days of the return of materials.

In case you want your marks, you can submit a re-grade request. For this, you’ll need to submit a written request (in the form of a PDF email attachment) within 7 days of receiving your materials.

Here are the key points to include in your request:

- A detailed explanation of the discrepancies you identified in the current evaluation, with specific and relevant information provided.
- *Please be informed of the following:*
 - A re-grade will entail a fresh evaluation and a higher or unchanged score is not guaranteed. In other words, if we identify cases where points were erroneously awarded on some items, your work will see penalty for those parts in the new evaluation.
 - A re-graded assignment will be considered final (with no further reviews).

Scaling:

Course grades may be scaled in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department, or school norms. An unofficial grade given by the instructor or appearing on the course website may always change. Grades are not official until they appear on the student's academic record.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the UBC Calendar: Student Conduct and Discipline (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>).

EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, abilities - and other visible and non-visible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the Centre for Accessibility (previously known as Access & Diversity). The Centre will determine that student's eligibility for accommodations in accordance with Policy LR7: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (https://universitycounsel-2015.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/08/Disability-Accommodation-Policy_LR7.pdf?file=2019/02/policy73.pdf). The instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility should the accommodations affect the essential learning outcomes of a course.

Respectful environment and student code of conduct: It is very important that we foster an environment that is respectful of all participants in the course, no matter what their background. Students, faculty, and staff should be aware of the UBC president's Statement on Respectful Environment and related university policies. See this website for more information: <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/respectful-environment/>

All students are also bound by UBC's Student Code of Conduct: <http://students.ubc.ca/campus-life/student-code-conduct>.

Well-being: Being a university student can sometimes be stressful. If you are experiencing any sort of personal, psychological, medical or financial difficulties, I strongly encourage you to seek help at an early stage. There are many resources for students available on campus. The following page is a very useful guide for a wide variety of services related to your well-being: <http://students.ubc.ca/livewell>. If someone you know is in distress, here is a place where you can find ways to help them: <http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/concerned-about-student/how-help-other-students>.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment

and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>.

LEARNING ANALYTICS

Learning analytics includes the collection and analysis of data about learners to improve teaching and learning. This course will be using Canvas which usually capture data about your activity and provide information that can be used to improve the quality of teaching and learning. In this course, I plan to use analytics data to: (Example data uses:)

- View overall class progress
- Track your progress in order to provide you with personalized feedback
- Review statistics on course content being accessed to support improvements in the course
- Track participation in discussion forums
- Assess your participation in the course

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SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

(Please note that this schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion.)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
1	Jul. 02	Course introduction; Language myths	Syllabus; Ch. 1.1-1.6	
	Jul. 04	Phonetics	Ch. 3.1-3.4	
2	Jul. 09	Phonetics	Ch. 3.5-3.8	Quiz 1 T1
	Jul. 11	Phonology	Ch. 4.1-4.5	Quiz 2 T2
3	Jul. 16	Phonology		Quiz 3 T3
	Jul. 18	Morphology; MT review	Ch. 5.1-5.7; 5.9	Quiz 4 T4
4	Jul. 23	MT; Morphology		MT
	Jul. 25	Syntax	Ch. 6.2-6.5	
5	Jul. 30	Semantics	Ch. 7.1-7.4	Quiz 5 T5
	Aug. 01	Pragmatics	Ch. 8.1-8.2; 8.4-8.7	Quiz 6 T6
6	Aug. 06	Language variation and Change	Ch. 10.1-10.5	Quiz 7 T7
	Aug. 08	Language acquisition	Yule (2020): Ch. 13, pg. 201-210	Quiz 8 T8

08/16/24 Final exam (08:30am)