

LING2010Q: The Science of Linguistics

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15; Oak Hall 301

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Course description

An introduction to linguistics as a science. Methods, findings and theory of linguistic research on the sound system and the structures of human language. The relation between structure and meaning. The basics of linguistic analysis. Applied linguistics.

Q course: Definition and criteria [<http://geoc.uconn.edu/QCompetency.htm>]

Q courses require the knowledge and use of mathematics and/or statistics at or above the basic algebra level as an integral part of the course. These courses might include comprehensive analysis and interpretation of data. The mathematical and/or statistical methods and skills required are those specific to the particular course and discipline. [...]

1. Courses must include use of basic algebraic concepts such as: formulas and functions, linear and quadratic equations and their graphs, systems of equations, polynomials, fractional expressions, exponents, powers and roots, problem solving and word problems. Formal abstract structures used in symbolic logic and other algebraic analyses are acceptable;
2. Courses should require the student to understand and carry out actual mathematical and/or statistical manipulations, and relate them to whatever data might be provided in order to draw conclusions. [...]

Science and Technology: Definition and criteria [<http://geoc.uconn.edu/geocguidelines.htm>]

These courses acquaint students with scientific thought, observation, experimentation, and formal hypothesis testing, and enable students to consider the impact that developments in science and technology have on the nature and quality of life. Knowledge of the basic vocabulary of science and technology is a prerequisite for informed assessments of the physical universe and of technological developments.

Courses appropriate to this category should:

1. Explore an area of science or technology by introducing students to a broad, coherent body of knowledge and contemporary scientific or technical methods;
2. Promote an understanding of the nature of modern scientific inquiry, the process of investigation, and the interplay of data, hypotheses, and principles in the development and application of scientific knowledge;
3. Introduce students to unresolved questions in some area of science or technology and discuss how progress might be made in answering these questions; and
4. Promote interest, competence, and commitment to continued learning about contemporary science and technology and their impact upon the world and human society.

Grading Policy and course requirements

Your job as a student is to learn certain material and ways of thinking. My primary job as instructor is to teach you, but I also have the job of assessing your learning. To do this, I must ask you to demonstrate your learning, which I do in various ways.

Course requirements	
Exam 1 (Morphology, syntax)	20%
Exam 2 (Phonetics, phonology)	20%
Exam 3 (Final exam; cumulative)	25%
Homeworks	25%
Quizzes	10%

Numerical score/letter grade conversion					
93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Homeworks

The primary function of your homework assignments is in the teaching/learning area. You will learn the subject matter much better if you do the homework assignments. You probably cannot learn what is required in the course without doing the homework. The secondary function of homework is my assessment of your learning.

You may discuss your homework with a student in this course. In fact, a study group can be a good supplementary learning mechanism, and it is encouraged. **HOWEVER:** You may NOT simply copy another student's answers, nor may a group turn in one common set of answers (whether or not they are written on multiple pages with different names on the top). The first defeats the learning purpose; the second defeats the assessment purpose.

Homeworks are posted as .pdf files on HuskyCT the week before they are due. It is your responsibility to download and print the homeworks. To read the files you need a pdf viewer.

Homeworks are due in class on Thursdays. Late homeworks received any time after the end of class (12:15PM) on the Thursday on which they are due and before the beginning of class (11:00AM) on the following Tuesday will be accepted and scored with a deduction of 20% for lateness. Late homeworks received any time after the beginning of the Tuesday class following their due date will not receive any credit anymore.

Quizzes

Over the course of the semester, I will assign 12 short quizzes, each worth 1 point. You can earn a maximum of 10 points per semester by completing the quizzes. The main purpose of the quizzes is to give you the opportunity to practice for the exams and for you to assess your degree of familiarity with the course material. Quizzes have to be completed individually in class; they will be corrected but not graded (completion of a quiz is sufficient to earn the point). There is no prior announcement of quizzes, and there are no make-up quizzes.

Extra credit

Up to 5 points extra credit can be earned by completing an extra credit assignment. Information about extra credit options will be distributed later in the semester.

Exams

The primary purpose of exams is my assessment of your learning. You may ask the instructor clarification questions during an exam. However, you may NOT seek or obtain answers from another student, nor may you provide answers to another student, during an exam. You may not consult notes or unauthorized material during the exams.

Please note the scheduled dates for the exams and avoid any conflicts. Make-up exams (for midterm exams) are available only to students who have a legitimate and documented excuse for missing an exam.

The preliminary date for the final exam is Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 10:30 – 12:30. Please check the registrar's web page (<http://www.registrar.uconn.edu>) for updates. University rules require that you take the final exam at the time published (there is no make-up exam for the final exam).

From the Office of Student Services and Advocacy:

Final assessment week for Fall 2012 takes place from Monday, December 10th through Sunday, December 16th. Students are required to be available for their exam and/or complete an assessment during the time stated in the Registrar's Office Schedule. If you have a conflict with this time you must visit the Office of Student Services and Advocacy to discuss the possibility of re-scheduling this assessment.

****NEW THIS YEAR**** OSSA is REQUIRING that students who have a conflict about which they have or should have had advanced notice (bunched, religious obligation, legal/medical appointments...) MUST seek permission to reschedule their assessment NO LATER THAN November 30th.

Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the assessment schedule and over-sleeping are not viable excuses for missing a final assessment. If you think that your situation warrants permission to reschedule, please contact the Office of Student Services and Advocacy (2nd floor Wilbur Cross) to meet with a staff member.

Course material

All readings are available as downloadable files in the folder *Readings* on HuskyCT. You are responsible for reading the assigned pages prior to the lecture for which they are assigned. Unless otherwise noted, material in the readings is examinable. The books from which the readings are chosen are also available in the UConn library and/or the Co-op.

Note: Additional materials will be distributed in class. Regular attendance is therefore important since the class will cover material not discussed in the readings.

Academic Integrity – “The Student Code”

Academic dishonesty or misconduct of any type will not be tolerated in this class. Please refer to the Student Code (http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html) for specific guidelines.

Schedule (subject to change)

- L:** *Grammar as Science*. 2010. R. K. Larson & K. Ryokai. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. [The book is also available as an eBook through the UConn Libraries.]
- LF:** *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language & Linguistics*. 11th Edition. 2011. Ed. by Vedrana Mihalicek & Christin Wilson. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. [The book is also on hard copy reserve in the library.]
- FRH:** *An introduction to Language*. 9th Edition. 2010. Ed. by V. Fromkin, R. Rodman, & N. Hyams. Boston, Mass: Wadsworth.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Important dates
1	Aug 28 Aug 30	The science of linguistics Morphology	L: pp. 3-5, 37-39, 81	
2	Sep 4 Sep 6	Morphology Morphology		Homework 1 due
3	Sep 11 Sep 13	Syntax Syntax	L: pp. 41-51 L: pp. 53-57, 65-71	Homework 2 due
4	Sep 18 Sep 20	Syntax Syntax	L: pp. 83-97 L: pp. 99-113	Homework 3 due
5	Sep 25	Review and exercises		
	Sep 27	First Exam		
6	Oct 2 Oct 4	Phonetics Phonetics	LF: pp. 35-52 LF: pp. 53-57	Homework 4 due
7	Oct 9 Oct 11	Phonetics Phonetics – Phonology	LF: pp. 58-62	Homework 5 due
8	Oct 16 Oct 18	Phonology Phonology	LF: pp. 101-115 LF: pp. 116-121	Homework 6 due
9	Oct 23 Oct 25	Phonology Phonology	LF: pp. 122-123, 128-134	Homework 7 due
10	Oct 30	Review and exercises		
	Nov 1	Second Exam		
11	Nov 6 Nov 8	Semantics Semantics	FRH: pp. 179-183 FRH: pp. 184-186	Homework 8 due
12	Nov 13 Nov 15	Semantics Semantics	FRH: pp. 192-199	Homework 9 due
	Nov 20 Nov 22	Thanksgiving Break		
13	Nov 27 Nov 29	To be determined later To be determined later		Homework 10 due
14	Dec 4 Dec 6	Review and exercises Review and exercises		Extra credit due