Linguistics 210: Introduction to Linguistics

Tentative schedule of topics and reading assignments. Watch Blackboard for updates.

January 19, 21: The scientific study of language

The nature of Language (distinct from the study of individual languages)

Linguistic competence vs. linguistic performance

Descriptive vs. prescriptive grammars

Universal Grammar. Innateness of language.

Readings: CL: Chapter 1

January 26, 28, Feb. 2, 4: Phonetics.

Speech production. Anatomy & articulators. Classes of sounds.

Readings: CL Ch. 2, sections 1-6 and 10

The International Phonetic Alphabet. Transcription. IPA bingo.

Readings: CL Ch. 2, sections 7-8

And for pronunciation and transcription of the Int'l Phonetic Alphabet:

https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/inter_chart_2018/IPA_2018.html

Articulatory processes

Readings: CL, Ch. 2, section 9

February 9, 11, 16, 18: Phonology.

Phonemes and allophones

Readings: CL: Chapter 3, sections 1-3

Phonological processes. Phonological rules. Phonological analysis.

Readings: CL Ch. 3, sections 4-6

February 23: First Exam

February 25, March 2, 4, 9: Morphology

The structure of words.

Inflectional and derivational morphology.

Compounding. Other morphological processes

Readings: CL: Chapter 4, sections 1-5

Morphophonemics

Readings: CL: Chapter 4, section 6

March 11, 15, 18: Syntax (Part I)

Sentence structure. Constituency. Phrase structure and X'-theory.

Readings: CL: Chapter 5, sections 1 and 2

The use of modifiers.

Readings: CL: Chapter 5, section 5.2

March 25: Second Exam

March 30, April 1: Syntax (Part II)

Transformations

Readings: CL: Chapter 5, section 3, 4, and 5.1

April 6, 8, 13, 15: Semantics

Semantics: the study of meaning Pragmatics: meaning in context

Forensics: application of linguistics in the courtroom

Readings: CL: Chapter 6, sections 1, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.2 and 4.4.

April 20, 27: First Language Acquisition

Guest speaker: Prof. Elaine Andersen, Emerita of Psychology & Linguistics

First language acquisition

Babbling. Early phonetic processes.

Vocabulary development.

Readings: CL: Chapter 9, sections 1, 2, 4, and 6.5.

April 29: Course review and concluding remarks

May 11 (11 a.m.) Third exam (not cumulative)