Introduction to Language and Linguistics
LING 100.001
Winter term 1 2013

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Martina Wiltschko
Office: TFS 223/Brock Hall Annex Room 2351 (only during office hours)
Phone: 822 5417
Office Hours: Monday 3.00-4.00 (Brock Hall Annex Room 2351 or by appointment)

MAIN LECTURES:
Time: Monday & Wednesday 11.00-12.00
Location: Hennings 200
Prerequisites: none

TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND TUTORIALS:

Chenhao Chiu  T4C  Fri 12.00-13.00  Neville Scarfe 209
              T01  Fri 13.00-14.00  Food, Nutrition and Health 40

Joel Dunham  T4B  Fri 12.00-13.00  Henry Angus 434
              T03  Fri 13.00-14.00  Buchanan B210

Meagan Louie T04  Fri 12.00-13.00  Henry Angus 350
              T02  Fri 13.00-14.00  Henry Angus 37

Sonja Thoma  T4A  Fri 12.00-13.00  West Mall Swing Space 105
              T4D  Fri 13.00-14.00  Geography 201

Attendance and participation in tutorials counts towards your grade (see grading scheme)

Office hours TA’s: Wednesday 10.00-11.00 (Brock Hall Annex 2354)
A different TA will hold office hours every week. All TA’s are qualified to answer your questions (you don’t have to meet only the TA you are taking the tutorial with).

Website: Login through Blackboard Connect at: http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/

e-mail: Please contact the instructor and the teaching assistants through the Mail program on the Connect course website, NOT through personal e-mail.
Make use of Connect’s discussion board to get your questions answered by your classmates. The discussion board is especially useful for getting quick answers to logistical questions.
Course description:

In this course we explore three basic questions:
• What makes language special?
• What are the basic building blocks of any human language and how are they combined for form complex utterances?
• How do we study individual languages and how do we study the general cognitive ability that makes language possible?

Learning objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:
... know fundamental concepts that have shaped linguistic investigations
... think about language in an informed way
... apply the scientific method to particular research questions
... be able to read, write, and present original research

Required materials


Burton, Strang; Rose-Marie Déchaine & Eric Vatikiotis-Bateson. Linguistics For Dummies. John Wiley & Sons, Canada. (highly recommended


Detailed course outline

WHAT MAKES LANGUAGE SPECIAL?

Sep. 4  Introduction: What this course is about.

Sep. 9  Language universals and diversity
  What is language?
  How do languages differ?
  Do they have anything in common?

Sep 11  Identity through language and the politics of language
  How does language shape our identity?
  How can language be politicized?

Sep 16  Language loss
  Movie: Survivors of the red brick school
  Discussion with Vi Birdstone  (Ktunaxa elder & language consultant)

Sep 18  Fieldtrip: Truth and reconciliation day

WHAT IS A LANGUAGE MADE OF?

Sep 23  The sounds we can make
  Phonetics

Sep 25  The sounds we can write.
  Writing systems and their limits

Sep 30  The international Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
  Recording sounds the way they are

Oct 2   Language without sounds
  Sign languages and Gestures

Oct 7   What do we know when we know a sound?
  Phonemes

Oct 9   How do sounds combine?
  Syllables

Oct 14  Thanksgiving

Oct 16  When sounds acquire meaning
  What makes a (good) Words

Oct 21  What do we know when we know a word
  Morphology

Oct 23  Combining words to form sentences
  Syntax: categories, grammatical functions, phrase-structure

Oct 28  Interpreting words and sentences
  Semantics

Oct 30  Using words and sentence
  Pragmatics

Nov 4   Review

Nov 6   Midterm exam

Nov 11  Remembrance day

HOW DO WE STUDY LANGUAGE?

Nov 13  TA topics:
  Chenhao Chiu:
  Sonja Thoma:

Nov 18  TA topics:
  Meagan Louie:
  Joel Dunham:

Nov 20  Out of the mouths of babes…
  Language acquisition

Nov 25  Language as a window into the human mind?
  Universal grammar
  Linguistic relativism

Nov 27  How do you collect your data?
  Introspection, Fieldwork and experiments
Course Requirements

Option 1 (‘I just want to pass the course’)

i) Online Quizzes (5 total, at 4% each) 20%
ii) Assignments (4 total, at 5% each) 20%
iii) Mid-term examination¹ 25%

¹If you miss the final exam, you need a good excuse (e.g., doctor’s note; the make-up exam will be oral during office hours)

If you receive a perfect score on each of these tasks, your final grade will be 65% (= C+)
To pass the course, you will need 50%.

Example
Quiz 2.5% each = 12.5%
Assignments 4% each = 16%
Midterm 22 = 22%
Total: = 50.5% (=D)

Option 2 (‘I want to learn something AND do well in this course’)

same as in option 1
AND

i) Attendance and engaged participation 10%
   Random attendance checks in class 2%
   Regular attendance in tutorial 2%
   Participation level in tutorial 2%
   Participation level on blackboard 2%
   Attendance in office hours 2%

The use of electronics (cell phone, laptop, I-pad, ....) during class in ways that are not related to class activities might cancel your participation points!!

ii) Complete a group project 20%
   (work on the project will take place in tutorials, and outside of class time)
   proposal 1st draft 2%
   revised proposal 2%
   research report 4%
   1st draft of project 2%
   revised draft 4%
   finalized project 4%
   project presentation 2%

iv) Peer evaluation of other project (online) 5%
   Feedback for proposal 1%
   Feedback for 1st draft 2%
   Feedback for final project 2%

There is NO final exam! Final projects will be presented during the assigned exam time.
## What do I need to do and when?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep.13</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Last day to form groups for group project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep.16</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 1</strong></td>
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<td>Sep.23</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 3</td>
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<td>Sep.25</td>
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<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 16</td>
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<td>Sep.30</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 2</strong></td>
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<td>Oct.2</td>
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<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 15</td>
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<td>Oct.7</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 4</td>
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<td>Oct.16</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 3</strong></td>
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<td>Oct.21</td>
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<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 6</td>
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<td>Oct.23</td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 3</strong></td>
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<td>Oct.25</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Proposal due (presentation of proposals)</td>
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<td>Oct.28</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Feedback on proposal due</td>
<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 9, Linguistics for dummies, chapter 7</td>
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<td>Oct.30</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 10, Linguistics for dummies, chapter 8</td>
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<td>Nov.1</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Revised proposal due</td>
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<td>Nov.13</td>
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<td><strong>R:</strong> Reading (tba)</td>
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<td>Nov.15</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Research report due</td>
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<td>Nov.18</td>
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<td>Nov.20</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>R:</strong> Yule chapter 13, 14</td>
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<td>Nov.22</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> 1st draft due (presentation of 1st drafts)</td>
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<td>Nov.29</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Project presentation</td>
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<td>2 days later</td>
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<td><strong>P:</strong> Submit Final project</td>
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The fine print

Honor Code
The UBC policy on academic misconduct is in effect at all times in this class, both in letter and spirit.

I will treat violations of it seriously. If you ever have questions about academic integrity or misconduct, or their application in this class, you should bring them to me.

Please remember to include your handwritten signature (indicating that you have abided by the Honor Code) on all assignments and exams. All work that you turn in is to be your original work.

You may not turn in another person’s work as yours, and quoted material must be properly cited. You may not receive assistance during exam-taking from another person, nor from any information or materials unless authorized by the instructor. Your handwritten signature on an assignment constitutes a statement that you have abided by the code of academic integrity on all issues relating to that assignment.

Academic Misconduct that is subject to penalty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism.

Plagiarism occurs where an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when excerpts are used in paragraphs or essays, the author or website must be acknowledged in the text, through footnotes, in endnotes, or in other accepted forms of academic citation. Plagiarism extends from where there is no recognition given to the author for phrases, sentences, or ideas of the author incorporated in an essay to where an entire essay is copied from an author, or composed by another person, and presented as original work. Students must ensure that when they seek assistance from a tutor or anyone else that the work they submit is actually their own. Where collaborative work is permitted by the instructor, students must ensure that they comply with the instructor’s requirements for such collaboration. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

2. Cheating.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to: falsifying any material subject to academic evaluation; having in an examination any materials other than those permitted by the examiner; and using unauthorized means to complete an examination (e.g. receiving unauthorized assistance from a fellow student).

3. Repeated submission.

Submitting the same, or substantially the same, essay, presentation, or assignment more than once (whether the earlier submission was at this or another institution), unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor(s) to whom the assignment is to be submitted.

4. Using another person’s iClicker

Using someone else’s iClicker, or allowing someone else to use yours, is
Academic Misconduct.

For more information (including info about disciplinary measures):
http://www.vpacademic.ubc.ca/integrity/policies.htm (reproduced in part above) or
http://instrument.unc.edu/instrument.text.html#academicdishonesty

Violations of the Honor Code may result in disciplinary action, including a failing grade for the course, suspension from scholarships, or expulsion from the University.

Take this seriously: Abide by this code of conduct, and remember to sign your work!

Homework Assignments, the Midterm and the Honor Code

➤ All homework assignments and the midterm exams should include your handwritten signature indicating that you have abided by the UBC code of academic integrity on all issues relating to that assignment (see below for details).

➤ You may work together to arrive at answers for homeworks, but each student should write up their own responses, and you should indicate which other students you worked with. Assignments that include identical answers will be treated as violations of the Honor Code.

➤ All homework assignments are to be submitted in whatever format has been specified for that particular homework on the due date. Late assignments will NOT be accepted for credit.

➤ If you have a problem downloading an assignment or reading, get in contact with me immediately. “I couldn’t download it” will not be accepted as an excuse for late assignments. You should download assignments and readings in due time, to avoid technical glitches.

➤ Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing.

Make sure you read the Honor Code, take it seriously, and that you thoroughly understand how serious academic misconduct is. Intellectual property is property just like any other. Never pretend that other people’s ideas are your own!

What is Attendance?

The Calendar says: Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from the final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes.

You are responsible for all material covered in class. Students who have missed class for any reason are responsible for finding out what information has been missed. Exams and tutorials will draw heavily on material covered in lectures.
Although class notes will be posted on the Vista site, this is not a substitute for class attendance. Coming to class and taking notes is crucial since this class is often discussion-based.

You are responsible for information on the course Vista section and should check it regularly. To get the best possible grade in this class, you should attend all lectures and tutorials (on time), and come prepared. My teaching style uses class time on the assumption that you have already completed the reading, rather than rehashing it for you. You will get more out of class time (and thus eventually get a better grade) if you do the reading when it is assigned.

**Negotiating marks/grades**
- I do NOT negotiate marks/grades (unless you can demonstrate an error).
- Errors should be brought IN WRITING to MY attention (NOT the TA’s) within one week (7 calendar days) of an assignment/exam being returned.
- Any papers that are not returned for correction within one week will stand as marked.

**Scaling.**
Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note than an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed. Grades are not official until they appear on a student’s academic record.