

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

Yule, George. 2006. *The Study of Language, Third Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (4th edition 2010) (required)

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

Balthasar Bickel: Linguistic Diversity and Universals. To appear in: Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology ed. by Nick Enfield, Paul Kockelman & Jack Sidnell

Report on the status of BC First Nations Languages

2010. <http://www.fpcc.ca/files/PDF/2010-report-on-the-status-of-bc-first-nations-languages.pdf>.

Evans, Nicholas, & Levinson, Stephen C. (2009). The myth of language universals: Languagediversity and its importance for cognitive science. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 32(5), 429-448. doi: 10.1017/S0140525X0999094X

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 examination ¹		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 1 st draft	2%
revised proposal	2%
research report	4%
1 st 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 1 st 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?

Sep.9	R: <i>Balthasar Bickel: Linguistic Diversity and Universals. To appear in: Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology ed. by Nick Enfield, Paul Kockelman & Jack Sidnell</i> www.spw.uzh.ch/bickel-files/papers/universals.Bickel2012.pdf
Sep 11	R: <i>Report on the status of BC First Nations Languages 2010.</i> http://www.fpcc.ca/files/PDF/2010-report-on-the-status-of-bc-first-nations-languages.pdf .
Sep 13	P: <i>Last day to form groups for group project</i>
Sep 16	Quiz 1
Sep 23	Homework Assignment 1 R: <i>Yule chapter 3</i>
Sep 25	R: <i>Yule chapter 16</i>
Sep 30	Quiz 2
Oct 2	R: <i>Yule chapter 15</i>
Oct 7	Homework Assignment 2 R: <i>Yule chapter 4</i>
Oct 16	Quiz 3 R: <i>Yule chapter 5</i>
Oct 21	R: <i>Yule chapter 6</i>
Oct 23	Homework Assignment 3 R: <i>Yule chapter 7, Linguistics for dummies, chapter 6</i>
Oct 25	P: <i>Proposal due (presentation of proposals)</i>
Oct 28	P: <i>Feedback on proposal due</i> R: <i>Yule chapter 9, Linguistics for dummies, chapter 7</i>
Oct 30	Quiz 4 R: <i>Yule chapter 10, Linguistics for dummies, chapter 8</i>
Nov 1	P: <i>Revised proposal due</i>
Nov 13	R: <i>Reading (tba)</i>
Nov 15	P: <i>Research report due</i>
Nov 18	P: <i>Reading (tba)</i>
Nov 20	Quiz 5 R: <i>Yule chapter 13, 14</i>
Nov 22	P: <i>1st draft due (presentation of 1st drafts)</i>
Nov 25	R: <i>Evans & Levinson 2009. The myth of language universals</i> http://www.mpi.nl/news/news-archive/the-myth-of-language-universals
Nov 27	Homework Assignment 4
Nov 29	P: <i>Revised draft due</i>
Tbd	P: <i>Project presentation</i>
2 days later	P: <i>Submit Final project</i>

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 that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.