

Ling 501 Fundamentals of Linguistics

Schedule #22050

Fall 2016

TuTh 2:00pm-3:15pm

Room EBA-340

This course will serve as a broad introduction to linguistics, building a foundation for further study in the field. The first half of the course will be devoted to introducing the four basic layers of language: **morphology, phonetics, phonology, and syntax**. Next we will turn to **semantics** and **pragmatics**, investigating the ways the people use language to convey meanings. We will then take a broad look at **historical** and **areal linguistics** looking at some of the amazing ways that languages vary across space and time. Finally, with a basic picture of linguistic systems in mind, we will look at **discourse** (language use in texts in dialogues) and **sociolinguistics** (language in its social context).

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe and give examples of ways in which human languages are all alike and how they may differ
- use the basic terminology of linguistics to describe language phenomena
- apply the tools of linguistic analysis to the sounds, words, and sentences of a language
- explain the ways in which languages change over time
- describe differing uses of language in its social context

Instructor:

Rob Malouf

Office: SHW 244

Office hours: Tu 1:00–2:00, Th 8:30–9:30, or by appt

Email/GTalk: rmalouf@mail.sdsu.edu

Web: malouf.sdsu.edu

Requirements:

The final grade will be based on homeworks (30%), a midterm exam (30%), and a final exam (40%). Besides being a big part of the course grade, the homework assignments will be excellent practice for the exams. Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Late homeworks will be accepted (with a grade penalty) for **one week only** after the deadline. **There will be no make-up exams without prior arrangements. If you can't make it to an exam, let me know in advance!**

No form of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, will be tolerated in the class. Following Executive Order 1006, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities for investigation. For more information about the judicial process, see <http://csrr.sdsu.edu>. For more information about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, see <http://its.sdsu.edu/tech/plagiarism.html>.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Important dates:

Midterm exam Oct. 27

Final exam Dec. 20

Readings:

The required textbook for this course is:

Carol Genetti, ed. 2014. *How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press. <http://www.cambridge.org/genetti>

It is for sale in the campus bookstore and on Amazon, etc. Updates and additional material can be downloaded from the publisher's website. All course information, additional readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Blackboard.

Proposed schedule:

Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2	Phonetics	Chapter 2
Week 3–4	Phonology	Chapter 3, 10
Week 5–6	Morphology	Chapter 4
Week 7–8	Syntax	Chapter 5, 6
Week 9	Midterm	—
Week 10–11	Semantics and pragmatics	Chapter 7, 8
Week 12	Discourse	Chapter 9
Week 13	Sociolinguistics	Chapter 11
Week 14	Historical linguistics	Chapter 12, 13
Week 15	Wrap up and review	—